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Humane Society International India



Dog Management Program - India

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

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Understanding Street Dogs and ABC Process

Introduction

India's street dog population is a complex urban phenomenon. The Animal Birth Control (ABC) program is a humane, science-based intervention designed to manage this population while ensuring public health and animal welfare. This section explores the behaviour of street dogs and the rationale behind the ABC approach.



Natural Behavior of Street Dogs

Street dogs are intelligent, social, and territorial. Their behavior is shaped by environmental conditions, human interactions, and internal pack dynamics.

- **Territoriality:** Dogs defend their area from unfamiliar dogs and humans.
- **Maternal Instincts:** Mothers are protective of their puppies and may show aggression if they sense a threat nearby.
- **Seasonal Aggression:** During mating seasons, aggression - particularly among males - tends to increase due to competition for mates.
- **Pack Behaviour:** Dogs form social groups around food sources, and these groups have social hierarchies and strong internal loyalty.
- **Puppy Development:** Chewing and biting are common during teething and are not signs of aggression.
- **Fear Responses:** Injured or sick dogs may bite out of fear or pain.

Why Street Dogs Bite

Recognizing what causes dogs to bite helps prevent conflicts and ensures safer handling.

- **Maternal Protection:** Defensive or aggressive behavior when puppies are nearby.
- **Self-Defense:** Dogs bite when cornered, threatened or provoked.
- **Sudden Stimuli:** Loud sounds, fast movements, or teasing can provoke bites.
- **Migration Stress:** Dogs relocated to unfamiliar areas may become insecure and aggressive.
- **Pain or Injury:** Physical discomfort can lead to defensive biting.
- **Mating Season:** Hormonal changes increase aggression in males.

Why Killing or Removing Street Dogs Doesn't Work

Eliminating dogs from an area is ineffective and counterproductive.

- **Territorial Vacuums:** New dogs quickly occupy vacated spaces.
- **Population Rebound:** The sudden reduction in numbers triggers higher breeding rates and better survival among remaining dogs.
- **Ecological Disruption:** Absence of dogs can lead to a rise in rats and snakes.
- Unfamiliar incoming dogs may be more aggressive or unvaccinated, posing risks to local pets and residents.
- **Fearful Escapes:** Dogs that escape capture become wary of humans, making future vaccination and sterilization efforts more difficult.

Overview of the ABC Process

The ABC process is endorsed by national and international animal welfare bodies. It includes:

- **Capture (Day 1):** Humane catching and transportation to clinic using trained personnel.
- **Sterilization (Day 2):** Surgical spaying/neutering to prevent reproduction.
- **Vaccination (Day 2):** Anti-rabies shots to protect public health.
- **Recovery (Day 2-5):** Post-operative care in ABC facility.
- **Release (Day 6):** Dogs are returned to their original territory.

This approach ensures long-term population control, reduces rabies risk, and promotes coexistence between humans and street dogs.



Field Team Protocol

Introduction

The Field Protocol outlines the step-by-step process for humane dog catching, handling, and transportation under the ABC program. It ensures that all field activities are carried out ethically, safely, and in accordance with legal and welfare standards.

Vehicle Preparation and Equipment

Before any field operation begins, it is essential to ensure that the transport vehicle and all necessary equipment are properly prepared. This step is critical not only for the safety and welfare of the dogs but also for maintaining public trust and operational efficiency.

Vehicle Setup:

- The vehicle must be clean, well-ventilated, and clearly marked as part of the ABC program.
- Ensure that the rubber mat is laid out securely to prevent slipping or injury.
- The driver's record sheet, owner consent forms, and dog ID tags should be organized and ready for use.



Equipment Checklist:

Vehicle Preparation

Nets	Dog-catching nets must be cleaned and inspected regularly for damage; securely fastened to prevent escapes and minimize injury risk to dogs and handlers.
Collars & ID Tags	Used for identification and tracking of dogs.
Tape, Marker & Pen	For labeling and documentation during field operations.
Water Bowls	To keep dogs hydrated during transport.
Dustbin, Scoop & Wiper	For maintaining hygiene inside the vehicle.
Disinfectant	For cleaning equipment and vehicles before and after use.
First Aid Kit	For both dogs and team members in case of emergencies.
Biscuits or Treats	Used for calming dogs during handling and transport.
Leashes	Must be used only by advanced handlers with proper training to avoid accidents.

Vehicle Safety & Comfort Guidelines

Avoid Sharp Objects	Net rods or any sharp objects should not be kept inside the vehicle to prevent injury or panic among dogs and team members.
Smooth Driving	Mandatory—rough driving can cause injury or distress to animals.
Parking	Park in shaded areas and avoid driving in heavy rain to maintain comfort for dogs.

Compassionate Handling

Humane and compassionate handling is the cornerstone of ethical dog management. Every action taken during catching and collection directly influences public perception and the welfare of the animals. Field teams must operate with empathy, professionalism, and awareness that they are being observed by the community.

Guiding Principle:

“Your handling techniques directly influence how people treat street dogs.”

Field staff must always demonstrate compassion, especially during public interactions. Rough or careless handling not only harms the dog but also undermines the credibility of the ABC program.

Approved Catching Methods:

- **By Hand** – Only for docile or injured dogs, with minimal restraint.
- **Owner Hand-Off / In-Vehicle** – When the dog is voluntarily surrendered.
- **Net Catching** – Preferred method for safe and controlled restraint.
- **Trap** – Used in specific cases, such as elusive or fearful dogs.
- **Scruffing** – Only by trained handlers, and only when necessary.

Each method must be executed calmly, without aggression or panic. The goal is to minimize stress and ensure safety for both the dog and the handler.



Do Not Catch:

- **Ear-Notched Dogs** – Already sterilised and vaccinated.
- **Very Small Puppies** – Pups under the age of 6 months should not be caught for sterilisation
- **Lactating Females** – female dogs with puppies shall not be captured for sterilisation till their litter is two months of age.
- **Sick, Old, emaciated, malnourished or Injured Dogs** – Refer to rescue or veterinary care.

Catching these categories can cause unnecessary harm or disrupt maternal care. Field teams must assess each situation carefully before proceeding.



Identification and Data Collection:

- **Verify Collar ID** – Check for existing tags or markings.
- **Collect Data in Mobile App** – Record dog ID, location, sex, and method of capture.
- **Owner Consent Form** – Required for owned or community dogs.
- **Driver's Record Sheet** – Must be completed with full details for each dog, with the location of pickup

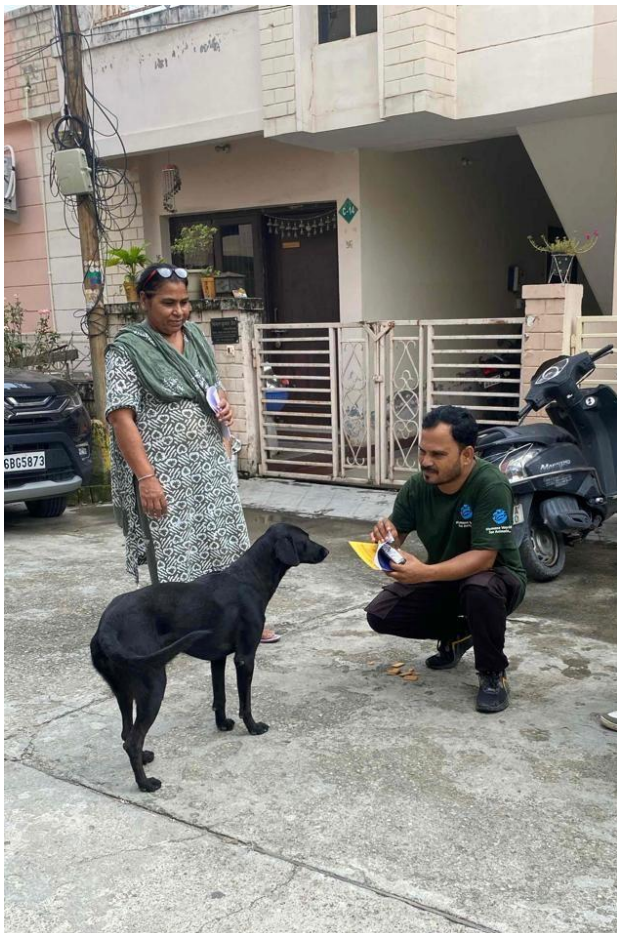
Accurate documentation ensures traceability, accountability, and proper follow-up care.

Dog Behavior and Humane Handling

Understanding dog behavior is essential for safe, compassionate, and effective field operations. Dogs are sentient beings with emotions, instincts, and individual temperaments. Humane handling begins with recognizing these traits and responding with empathy and skill.

Basic Principles of Humane Handling:

- **Always stay focused:** Always keep your eyes on the dog. Sudden movements or distractions can escalate fear or aggression.
- **Move slowly and calmly:** Stand up slowly, hold the dog close to your body, and walk gently. Avoid abrupt gestures.
- **Use biscuits or treats:** These can help coax the dog to stand or move voluntarily, reducing the need for physical restraint.
- **Pet the dog slowly:** A gentle touch helps relax the dog and build trust. Wait until the dog's body softens before lifting.



Scruffing – Intermediate Handling Technique

Scruffing involves holding the loose skin behind the dog's neck to control head movement. It should only be used by trained handlers and in situations where other methods are not feasible.

- **Lift with full body support:** Never lift a dog by the scruff alone. Support the chest and hindquarters.
- **Expect resistance:** Scruffing causes discomfort. Dogs may cry or attempt to bite.
- **Stay calm:** The handler must remain composed and avoid reacting to the dog's distress.

Scruffing is not a preferred method and should be used sparingly, with full awareness of its impact on the animal.



How to Safely Lift a Dog:

- **Encourage the dog to stand:** Use a soft voice and gentle petting.
- **Hand placement:** One hand under the chest, the other behind the rump.
- **Secure grip for small dogs:** Make them feel safe by holding close and speaking softly.
- **Release if struggling:** If the dog resists or panics, let go immediately and reassess.

The goal is to make the dog feel secure, not restrained. Humane lifting reduces injury risk and builds trust.



Net CatChing ProtoCol

Net catching is the most widely used and recommended method for safely restraining street dogs during ABC operations. When performed correctly, it minimizes stress, prevents injury, and allows for humane handling. This section outlines the tools, techniques, and dos and don'ts of net catching.

Equipment Preparation:

Before entering the field, inspect the net thoroughly:

- Check for holes or tears in the mesh.
- Ensure the nut and bolt are tight and the ring and rod are securely fastened.
- Confirm that the net ring is stable and the rod moves smoothly.
- Carry a towel for calming the dog post-capture if needed.

A well-maintained net is essential for safe and effective catching.

What TO DO During Capture:

- Approach calmly and quietly, keeping the net low to avoid startling the dog.
- Aim for the headfirst—approach from behind when possible and always be mindful that the net can cause serious injury if not used properly.
- Use the “bait and net” method: lure the dog with food, then gently net.
- Block escape routes with team coordination before attempting capture.
- Once netted, twist the net to secure the dog and prevent movement.
- Allow the dog to calm down inside the net before lifting.
- Support the dog by placing it on top of the net ring and carrying the ring for stability.
- Place the dog gently into the vehicle and only release it from the net once safely inside.

Patience and teamwork are key. Rushing or chasing increases risk and stress.



What NOT TO DO During Capture:

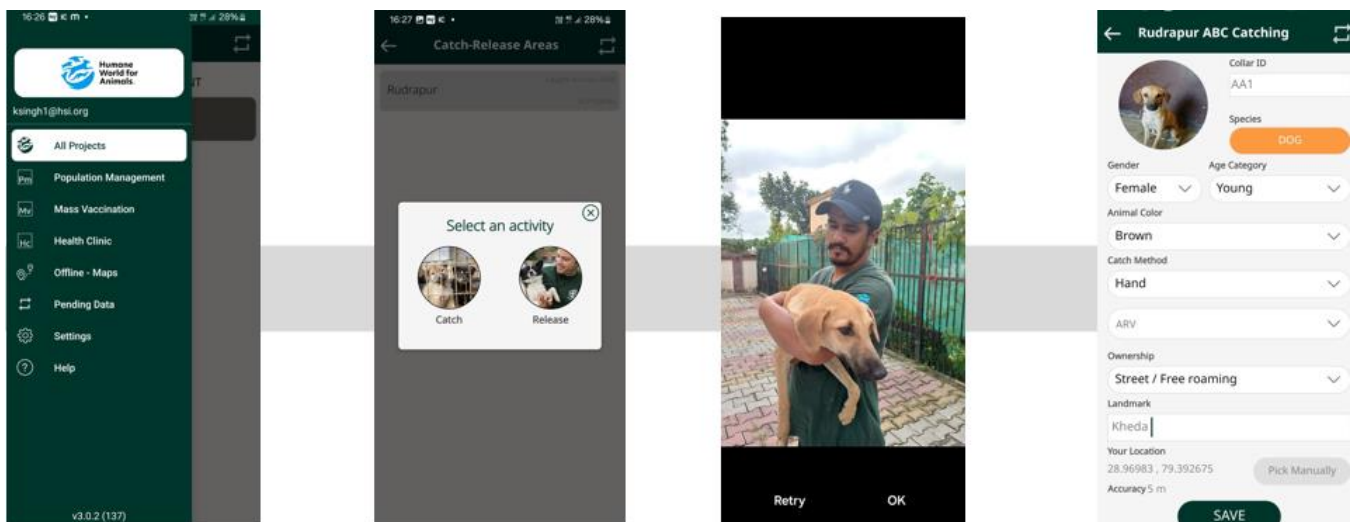
- Never hit the dog with the net ring or rod.
- Do not use excessive force—be firm but gentle.
- Never kick or drag a dog inside the net.
- Avoid standing on the net ring or rod, unless necessary for very large dogs.
- Do not leave a dog unattended inside the net.
- Never expose a netted dog to direct sun—move to shade immediately.
- Do not throw the dog into the vehicle—always lift and place gently.

Every dog inside the net is frightened and vulnerable. Compassionate handling is non-negotiable.

Identification and Documentation:

- Verify collar ID if present.
- Record the catching method as “Net” in the mobile app.
- Note the dog’s behaviour during capture for shelter staff.
- Ensure the driver’s record sheet is updated with full details.

Proper documentation ensures traceability and supports post-capture care.



Handling a Rabies Suspect Dog

Rabies is a fatal zoonotic disease and must be treated with utmost urgency and caution. When a dog is suspected of having rabies, the field team must follow strict protocols to protect themselves, the community, and other animals.

Immediate Response:

- **Do not delay:** Rabies complaints must be attended to immediately with top priority
- **Prioritize safety:** All team members must wear gloves, protective clothing, and avoid direct contact with the dog.
- **Use only a net** for catching—never reuse netting mesh that has come into contact with the dog's mouth.
- **Dedicated transport:** Do not transport other dogs in the same vehicle used for a rabies suspect.
- Please add something about keeping immunoglobulins or post-bite vaccination availability in case of emergency. At least, team members should inform the managers immediately.

Isolation and Containment:

- After capture, the dog must be isolated in a separate kennel, far from other animals.
- Ensure strict security and limited access to the kennel area.
- The dog must be monitored and handled based on veterinary diagnosis and in accordance with ABC Rules 2023 - Rabies Management Guidelines.

Post-Handling Protocol:

- Disinfect all equipment and vehicles used during the operation.
- Conduct a rabies vaccination drive in the locality where the dog was caught. This is critical to prevent further exposure and reassure the community.

Documentation and Reporting:

- Record the **GPS location** of the incident.
- Note community contact details and any relevant observations.
- Share the case report with the concerned authorities for follow-up and public health coordination.

Rabies suspect cases are high-risk and require calm, professional, and coordinated action. The safety of the team and the community depends on strict adherence to these protocols.

Welfare Considerations

The ABC program is not just a logistical operation—it is a welfare-driven initiative. Every dog caught, transported, and treated must be handled with care, compassion, and respect. Welfare considerations must guide every decision made in the field. Spay and neuter surgeries should be avoided if the dog or handlers are at risk. These are not emergency procedures and can be postponed or delayed if there is any risk involved during catching, transportation, surgery, or recovery.

General Welfare Guidelines:

- **Avoid excessive chasing:** Prolonged pursuit causes stress, exhaustion, and potential injury.
- **Choose the right catching method:** Match the technique to the dog's temperament—gentle dogs may be hand-caught, fearful dogs may require netting or traps.
- **Transport safely:** No overcrowding. Each dog must have enough space to stand, turn, and lie down comfortably.
- **Monitor for distress:** Watch for signs of fear, overheating, injury, or aggression during and after capture.
- **Assign a welfare monitor:** One team member should sit with the catching vehicle to observe and respond to any welfare concerns during transport.

Handling of Special Welfare Cases:

Some dogs encountered in the field require urgent medical attention and **must not be caught for sterilisation**. These include:

- **Maggot wounds**
- **Car accident injuries**
- **Severe mange**
- **Dogs too sick to move**

These dogs should be referred immediately to a rescue or veterinary organization. The field team must:

- **Record GPS location**
- **Take clear images**
- **Share details with the designated rescue contact**

Sterilization is not appropriate for dogs in critical condition. Timely intervention can save lives and prevent suffering.

Ethical Handling Principles:

Always remember: the dog inside the net is frightened and vulnerable. Your approach must reflect the core values of animal welfare.

- **Freedom from Discomfort:** Handle gently to avoid physical strain.
- **Freedom from Fear & Distress:** Stay calm, speak softly, and avoid loud noises or sudden movements.
- **Freedom from Pain:** Never use force or rough handling. Support the dog's body during lifting and transport.

Your compassion makes a difference in every rescue. The way you treat one dog can shape how an entire community views street animal.



Mobile Application Protocol

The mobile application is a critical tool for real-time documentation and monitoring of field activities. It ensures that every dog collected is properly identified, tracked, and recorded in accordance with ABC program standards.

Step-by-Step Usage:

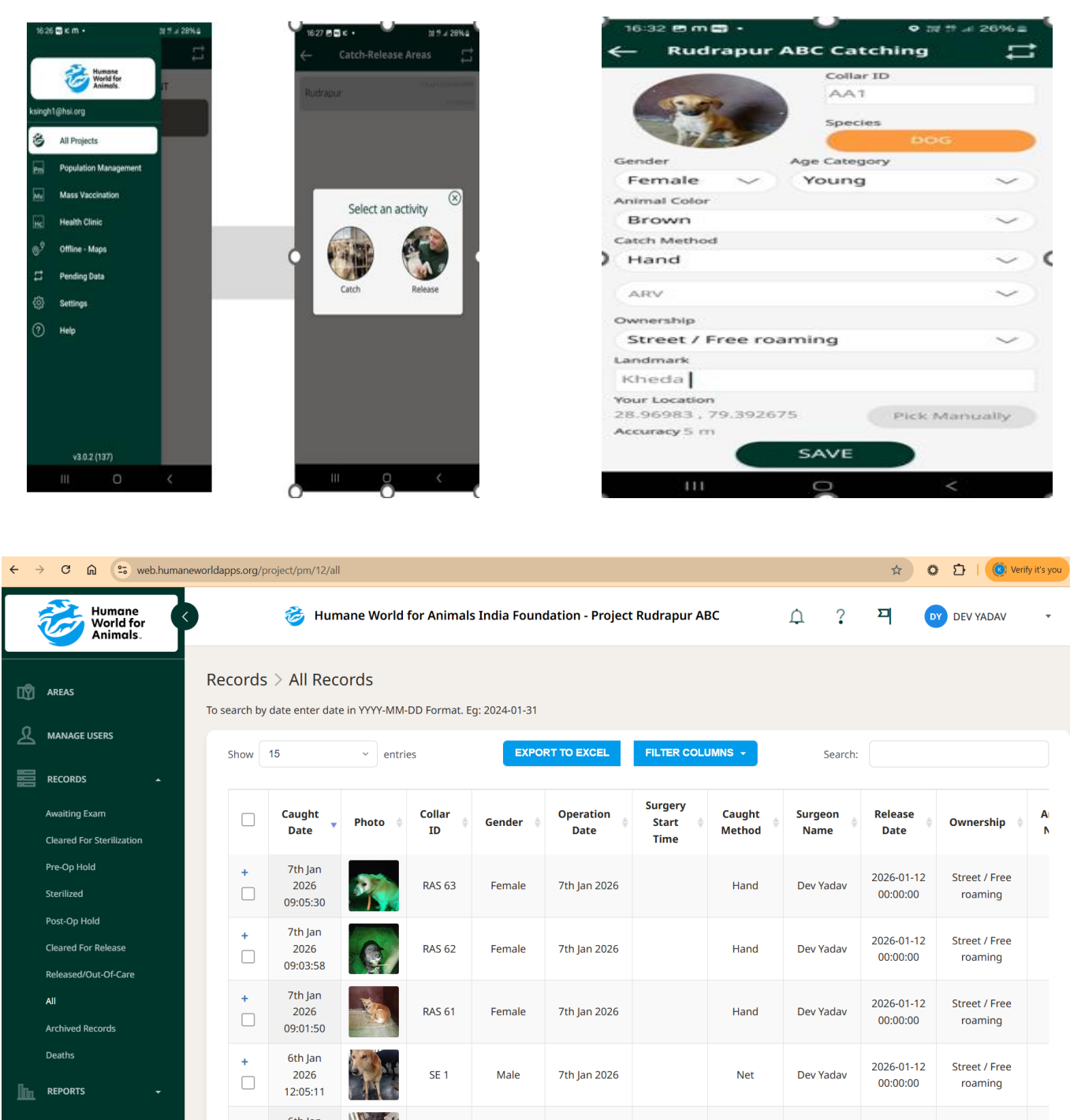
1. **Login Credentials:** Each field team is assigned a unique Username and Password. These credentials must be kept confidential and used only by authorized personnel.
2. **Dog Collection Entry:** After catching a dog, the following steps must be completed in the app:
 - a. **Take a clear photo** of the dog.
 - b. Enter the following details:
 - i. **Dog ID** (as per tag or assigned number)
 - ii. **Location** (GPS or locality name)
 - iii. **Sex:** Male / Female
 - iv. **Catching Method:** Hand, Scruff, Net, Trap, Owner / Inside Vehicle
 - v. **Dog Type:**
 1. **Street Dog:** Lives independently on the streets.
 2. **Community Dog:** Roams freely but is cared for by locals.
 3. **Owned Roaming Dog:** Has an owner but is allowed to wander.
 4. **Owned Confined Dog:** Lives within a home or enclosed property.
 - c. Select the **City, Ward/Zone** and click **Submit**.
 - d. Confirm the **Consent Form** for owned dogs, if applicable.
3. **Photo Documentation Tips**
 - a. Ensure the photo shows:
 - i. The dog **clearly**, including face and body.
 - ii. The **handler or owner**, if relevant.
 - iii. The **location context** (background, street, or property).

Photos must be sharp, well-lit, and respectful—no distressing or aggressive imagery.

Data Integrity and Accountability:

- All entries must be accurate and complete.
- Any errors or omissions must be corrected immediately.
- The app serves as the primary record for dog tracking, medical history, and release verification.

Proper use of the mobile app ensures transparency, builds public trust, and supports the long-term success of the ABC program. It is not just a tool—it’s a commitment to ethical and accountable fieldwork For any kind of technical issues, please reach out to the program manager immediately



Driver Record Sheet and Owner Consent Form

Accurate documentation is essential for transparency, accountability, and traceability in the ABC program. Two key forms must be completed during field operations: the **Driver Record Sheet** and the **Owner Consent Form**.

Driver Record Sheet:

The Driver Record Sheet is a mandatory log that tracks every dog transported in the ABC vehicle. It must be filled out by the field team immediately after each catch and verified upon arrival at the facility.

Required Details:

- **Dog ID** (as per collar tag or mobile app entry)
- **Catch Location** (specific street with landmark)
- **Sex:** Male / Female
- **Catching Method:** Net, Hand, Trap, Scruff, Owner Hand-Off
- **Dog Type:** Street, Community, Owned Roaming, Owned Confined
- **Team members** (name of all team members, including driver)
- **Transport Time** (from first catch to facility arrival)
- **Date**

Protocol Notes:

- Maximum **3 hours** transport time from the first dog caught to the facility arrival.
- Maximum **80% floor coverage** in the vehicle—avoid overcrowding.
- A **handler must be present** in the vehicle if more than two dogs are being transported.
- If any welfare concerns arise, the handler may request an **early return** to the facility.

Owner Consent Form:

For dogs that are owned or cared for by individuals or communities, a signed Owner Consent Form is required before collection.

Key Elements:

- **Owner's Name and Contact Information**
- **Dog Description:** Colour, sex, ID tag, distinguishing features
- **Catch Location**
- **Consent Statement:** Authorising sterilisation and temporary sheltering
- **Signature and Date**

Important Notes:

- Consent must be obtained **before** catching the dog.
- The form must be **attached to the dog's intake record** at the shelter.
- If the owner is unavailable, verbal consent may be recorded with a witness, but written consent must follow.

These forms are not just paperwork—they reflect the program's commitment to ethical standards, legal compliance, and community trust. Every dog deserves to be treated with dignity, and every owner deserves transparency and respect.



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Towards fewer & healthier dogs

Drivers Record Sheet

Date: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____ Drivers Name: _____

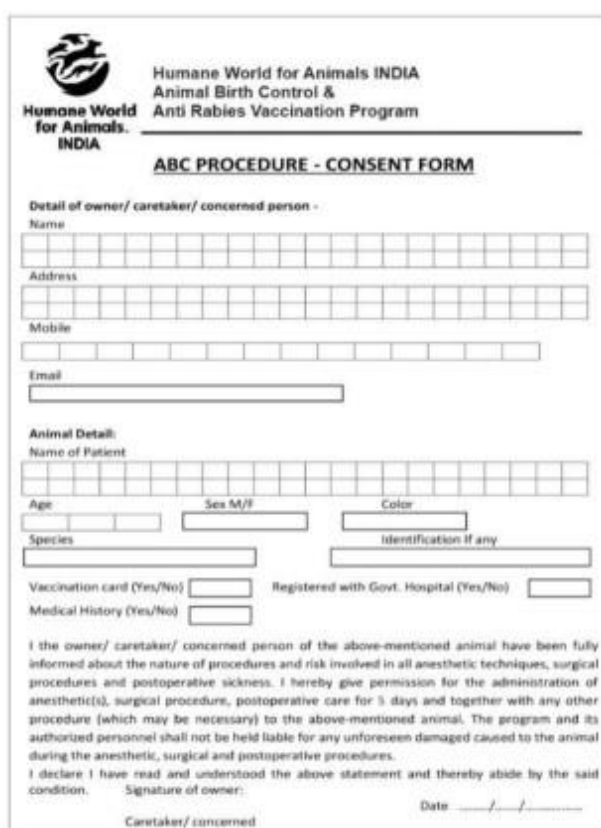
Sr.No.	Tag No.	Colour	Location	M/F	Release Date
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
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19.					
20.					

AWO Names:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Humane World for Animals India - ABC Centre, Lucknow Nagar Nigam, Lucknow, (226016) www.humane-world.org



Humane World for Animals INDIA
Animal Birth Control &
Anti Rabies Vaccination Program

ABC PROCEDURE - CONSENT FORM

Detail of owner/ caretaker/ concerned person -

Name _____

Address _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

Animal Detail:

Name of Patient _____

Age _____ Sex M/F _____ Color _____

Species _____ Identification if any _____

Vaccination card (Yes/No) ☐ Registered with Govt. Hospital (Yes/No) ☐

Medical History (Yes/No) ☐

I the owner/ caretaker/ concerned person of the above-mentioned animal have been fully informed about the nature of procedures and risk involved in all anesthetic techniques, surgical procedures and postoperative sickness. I hereby give permission for the administration of anesthetic(s), surgical procedure, postoperative care for 5 days and together with any other procedure (which may be necessary) to the above-mentioned animal. The program and its authorized personnel shall not be held liable for any unforeseen damaged caused to the animal during the anesthetic, surgical and postoperative procedures.

I declare I have read and understood the above statement and thereby abide by the said condition.

Signature of owner: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Caretaker/ concerned _____

Loading, Release / Return Protocol, and Mobile App

This section outlines the final steps in the ABC field cycle: how dogs are loaded into the vehicle, how they are released or returned after recovery, and how these actions are documented using the mobile application.

Loading Protocol:

Loading must be done with care and precision to ensure the safety of both dogs and handlers.

- **Ventilation:** Ensure airflow in the vehicle to prevent overheating.
- **Handler presence:** At least one trained handler must accompany the dogs in the vehicle.
- **Floor coverage:** should not exceed 80% of the vehicle floor area to allow space for movement and monitoring.
- **Check under the vehicle before moving:** Dogs may hide beneath the vehicle—always inspect thoroughly before departure.

Release / Return Protocol :

Releasing dogs back to their original location is a critical part of the ABC process. It ensures territorial stability and reduces migration-related aggression.

Release Guidelines:

- Confirm the dog is fully recovered, vaccinated, and ear notched.
- Release only in the original catch location.

Return Guidelines for Owned or Community Dogs:

- Coordinate with the owner or caretaker.
- Use the Owner Consent Form to verify return details.
- Please make sure the dog is calm and responsive before release.

Do Not Release If:

- The dog is still recovering, injured, or disoriented.
- The original location is unsafe, such as:
 - Hostile residents
 - Bad weather conditions (e.g., extreme rain, storms)
- The dog is unable to navigate its territory safely.
- The dog is owned—in such cases, return must be coordinated with the owner.

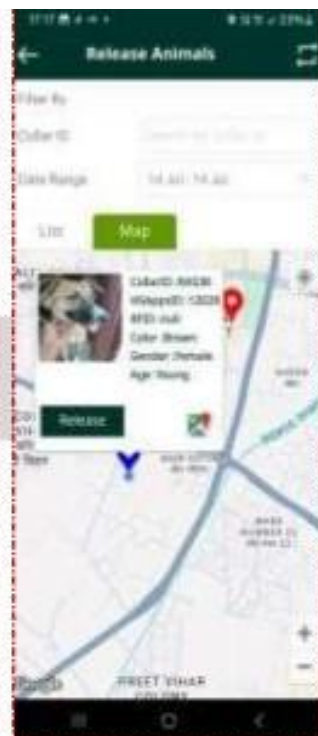
If any of these conditions apply, the dog must remain in the facility until a safe release is possible or alternative arrangements are made.

Mobile App – Release Workflow:

The mobile application is used to document and verify each release in real time. It ensures traceability and supports operational transparency.

1. **Login:** Each team is assigned a unique Username and Password. These credentials must be used only by authorised personnel.
2. **Release Map**
 - a. Select the date of release and click Submit.
 - b. View the map interface; zoom in and out to navigate.
 - c. Drive to the dog's designated release location.
 - d. Click on the dog location icon to view:
 - i. Dog ID number o Dog photo
 - ii. Cross-check the dog's identity with the Driver Record Sheet.
 - e. Once the dog is safely released, confirm the release in the app.
 - f. The dog icon disappears from the map, indicating successful release.
3. **Release List**
 - a. Select the "List" option in the app.
 - b. View the list of dogs assigned for release on the selected date.
 - c. Use this list to verify:
 - i. Dog ID
 - ii. Catch location
 - iii. Release status
 - iv. Any pending actions

This integrated process ensures that every dog is released safely, ethically, and with full documentation. It reflects the ABC program's commitment to humane care, operational discipline, and public accountability.



Vehicle Cleaning Protocol

Vehicle Cleaning

At the end of each field day, the ABC transport vehicle and all equipment used during dog catching and transport must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. This is essential for maintaining hygiene, preventing disease transmission, and upholding the welfare standards of the program.

Step-by-Step Cleaning Procedure:

- **Remove Solid Waste and Debris**
 - Clear out poop, fur, food scraps, and other hard waste from crates and the vehicle floor.
 - Use a scoop and a dustbin to dispose of waste hygienically.
- **Initial Water Rinse**
 - Rinse all surfaces with clean water to remove loose dirt and residue.
 - Ensure water reaches all corners, rubber mats, and net mesh.
- **Soap Wash**
 - Apply soap solution to all surfaces, including:
 - Vehicle floor
 - Rubber mat
 - Catching net
 - Scrub thoroughly using a brush or wiper to remove grime and biological residue.
- **Second Water Rinse**
 - Rinse off all soap with clean water, ensuring no residue remains.
- **Disinfection with Phenyl**
 - Apply phenyl solution generously across all cleaned surfaces.
 - Let it sit for 10 minutes to ensure proper disinfection.
 - Avoid rinsing during this period—allow contact time for germicidal action.
- **Final Water Rinse**
 - After 10 minutes, rinse all surfaces with clean water to remove phenyl.
 - Dry with a clean cloth or allow to air dry before next use.

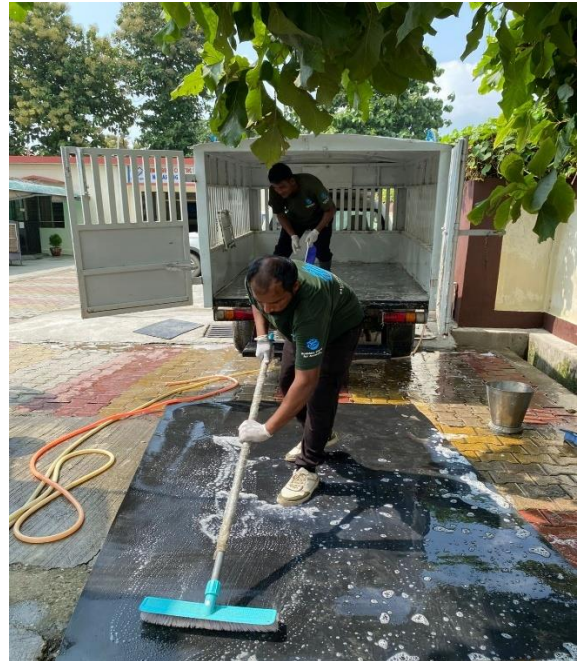


Items to Be Cleaned Daily:

- **Rubber mat** (used in vehicle)
- **Catching net**
- **Vehicle interior and exterior**

Final Checks:

- Ensure all equipment is dry, Odor-free, and ready for next use.
- Replace any damaged or worn-out items.
- Report sanitation issues to the field coordinator.
- Maintain a cleaning log.



Clinic Protocol

Compassionate. Caring. Professional.

The clinic is the heart of the ABC program. Every procedure performed here must reflect the highest standards of compassion, clinical precision, and animal welfare. This section outlines the full surgical workflow—from pre-anesthesia to post-operative care—ensuring sterility, safety, and humane treatment at every step.

Sterility (Asepsis)

“Asepsis is the aim and foundation of most of our clinic protocols.”

Sterility is the cornerstone of safe and humane surgical practice. Asepsis refers to the complete absence of germs—bacteria, viruses, fungi, and protozoa—that can cause infections and compromise animal health. Every step in the clinic must be guided by the goal of maintaining asepsis.



Understanding Germs

- Germs are microscopic organisms that cause disease and infection.
- They are present on hands, air, water, surfaces, and can spread through direct contact with infected individuals or contaminated objects.
- Germs are invisible—their absence must be ensured through strict protocols.

Sterility = No Germs

- Sterile = No germs
- No germs = No infection
- Every surgical success begins with this principle.

How to Kill Germs

To achieve asepsis, the following methods must be used consistently:

- **Heat (Autoclave)** - Sterilises instruments and drapes.
- **Disinfectants** - Used on surfaces and equipment.
- **Soap and Handwashing** - Essential for all staff before and after procedures.
- **Medicines** - Used to treat infections and support recovery.

Keys to Maintaining Sterility

- Autoclave all surgical instruments and packs before use.
- Limit carriers to the Operation Theatre (OT)—only essential personnel should enter.
- Wash, clean, and disinfect all surfaces and tools regularly.
- Don't touch sterile items with unclean hands or gloves—cross-contamination must be avoided at all costs.

Sterility is not a one-time action—it's a mindset and a discipline. Every team member must understand and uphold aseptic principles to ensure safe surgeries and healthy recoveries.



Cleaning Hands – Step-by-Step ProtoCol

Proper hand hygiene is a cornerstone of aseptic technique in veterinary clinics. All staff must follow a standardised handwashing protocol before and after handling animals, surgical instruments, or entering sterile zones. This reduces the risk of infection and ensures the safety of both animals and personnel.

Step-by-Step Handwashing Procedure

- **Wet your hands** under running water, avoiding contact with the sink.
- **Apply liquid soap** to cover all hand surfaces.
- **Rub palms together** to create lather.
- **Rub each palm on the back of the opposite hand**, interlacing fingers.
- **Interlace fingers** and rub them thoroughly.
- **Rub the back of fingers** against the opposite palm in a back-and-forth motion.
- **Rub each thumb** using the opposite palm in a circular motion.
- **Rub fingertips and nails** against the opposite palm in a circular motion.
- **Rub each wrist** using the opposite palm in a circular motion.
- **Rinse thoroughly** without touching the tap.
- **Dry with a disposable towel**, starting with the hands and finishing with the wrists.



This protocol must be followed before entering the Operating Theatre (OT), before and after surgical procedures, and after handling any biological waste or fluids.

Anesthesia

Health CheCk Before Anesthesia

Before administering anaesthesia, every dog must undergo a thorough health check to ensure safety and minimise surgical risks. This protocol helps identify underlying health issues and determine whether the dog is fit for surgery.

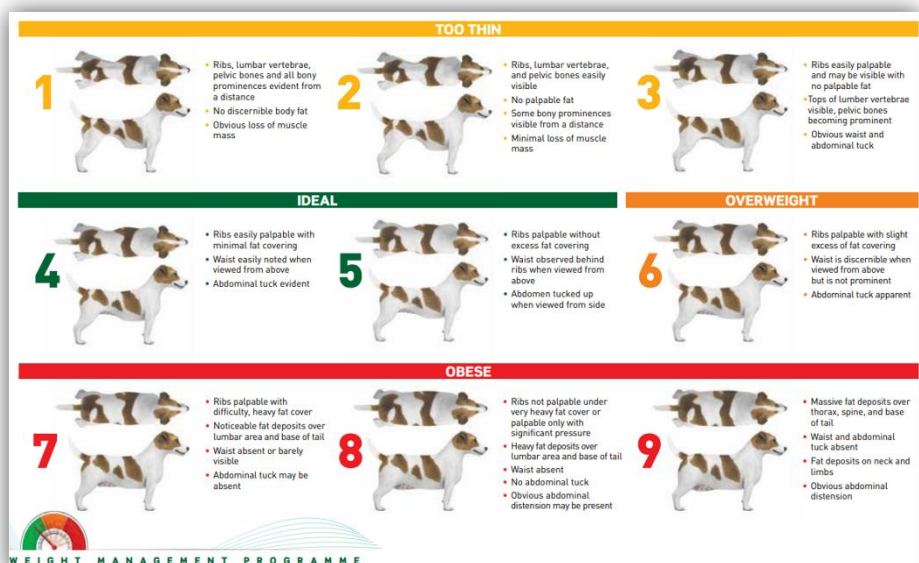
General Assessment

- **Disinfect hands/gloves** before examining each dog.
- **Assess the following:**
 - **Body condition** - Check for signs of malnutrition or obesity.
 - **Wounds or injuries** - Look for visible trauma or infections.
 - **Dehydration** - Examine skin elasticity and mucous membranes.
 - **TVT (Transmissible Venereal Tumour)** - Inspect the genital area for growths or lesions.



Weight Management Chart

- **TOO THIN (1–3):** Ribs, spine, and pelvic bones visible; minimal fat.
- **IDEAL (4–5):** Ribs palpable but not visible; waist evident.
- **OVERWEIGHT (6):** Ribs difficult to feel; slight abdominal fat.
- **OBESE (7–9):** Ribs not palpable; heavy fat deposits; no waist



Temperature

- **Normal range:** 100 - 102°F
- Use a digital or mercury thermometer rectally for accurate readings.



Heart Rate

- **Large dogs:** 60-100 beats per minute
- **Small dogs:** 100-140 beats per minute
- Use a stethoscope to auscultate the heart at the left chest wall.



Mucous Membrane Check

- **Normal:** Light pink, moist; Capillary Refill Time (CRT) < 2 seconds
- **Abnormal:** Red, white, purple/grey, or black - may indicate shock, anaemia, or poor circulation



Eyes & Nose

- **Normal:** Bright, clear eyes; wet nose
- **Abnormal:** Redness, crustiness, discharge - may indicate infection or systemic illness



Explaining Anesthesia

Anesthesia is a critical component of humane surgical practice. It ensures that animals do not experience pain during procedures and allows veterinarians to operate safely and effectively. However, anesthesia must be administered with care, as it carries risks that can be fatal if not properly managed.

No Anaesthesia = PAIN

- Pain is a biological signal sent to the brain, indicating damage or discomfort.
- Without anaesthesia, surgical procedures are extremely painful and distressing for animals.
- Performing surgery without anaesthesia is unethical and violates animal welfare standards.

Good Anaesthesia = NO PAIN

- Proper anaesthesia ensures the animal does not feel pain during surgery.
- It creates a calm and controlled environment for both the patient and the surgical team.
- Anesthetized animals remain still, reducing the risk of injury and complications.





Anaesthesia Risks – They Can Be Fatal

Anaesthesia affects several critical body functions:

- **Heart** – Can slow or stop if not monitored.
- **Lungs** – Breathing may become irregular or cease.
- **Muscle Control** – Loss of reflexes and tone.
- **Major Organs** – The liver and kidneys must process drugs safely.
- **Body Temperature Regulation** – Hypothermia or hyperthermia may occur.

Monitoring During Anaesthesia

To ensure safety, the following must be monitored continuously:

- **No unnecessary movement** – Indicates proper sedation.
- **No pain or discomfort** – Check reflexes and response to stimuli.
- **Stable vital signs** – Heart rate, respiratory rate, and temperature must remain within safe ranges.

Anesthesia Set-Up

Proper anesthesia preparation is essential for safe and effective surgical procedures. This section outlines the step-by-step setup of the anesthesia station, including workspace organization, equipment, medication, and safety protocols.

Preparation of Work Area

- Cover the table with a plastic sheet to maintain sterility.
- Bring a weighing scale for accurate dosage calculation.
- Gather cleaning supplies:
 - Disinfectant
 - Water
 - Trash bin
 - Broom and dustpan

Documentation & Dosage Reference

Prepare the following:

- **Clipboard**
- **Case record sheets**
- **Pens and markers**
- **Medicine dosage chart for reference**

Medical Equipment & Supplies

Essential tools:

- Thermometer
- Stethoscope
- Examination Gloves
- Needles (21G & 22G - 1 box) and dispenser

Additional supplies:

- Spirit (alcohol disinfectant)
- Small cotton balls

Medicine Tray Setup (For ~20 Dogs)

Organise medications:

- Xylazine
- Butorphanol
- Yohimbine (emergency use only)
- Dexamethasone (emergency use only)

Syringe & Medication Preparation

Prepare labelled syringes:

- 5ml and 3 ml syringes (x3) for Xylazine + Butorphanol
- Ensure syringes have needle & cap
- Proper Disposal: Discard used needles and syringes in a Sharps Disposal Bin.
- Needle Safety: Cap all needles immediately after use.
- No Reuse: Never reuse or leave uncapped needles in the workspace.



 Humane World for Animals Humane World for Animals India	LUCKNOW NAGAR NIGAM ANIMAL BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM <i>"Towards Better & Healthier dog"</i>																																																												
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STATION	ANESTHESIA		PREP					NURSE	
Bd Wt	Xylazine (20mg/ml)	Butorphenol (2 mg/ml)	Ketamine (50mg/ml)	Diazepam (5mg/ml)	Ivermectin	Meloxicam	Penicillin	ARV	Top lip (Keto-diaz 1:1)
	2 mg/kg	0.1 mg/kg	5mg/kg	0.25mg/kg					mg/kg=0.25mg
	Mix and given IM		Mix and given IV		SC	SC	Deep IM	SC	IV
	In MB								
1	0.1	0.05	0.1	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.2	1 ml	0.1
2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.06	0.08	0.4		0.2
3	0.3	0.15	0.3	0.15	0.09	0.12	0.6		0.3
4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.12	0.16	0.8		0.4
5	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.15	0.2	1		0.5
6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.18	0.24	1.2		0.6
7	0.7	0.35	0.7	0.35	0.21	0.28	1.4		0.7
8	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.24	0.32	1.6		0.8
9	0.9	0.45	0.9	0.45	0.27	0.36	1.8		0.9
10	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.3	0.4	2		1
11	1	0.55	1.1	0.55	0.33	0.44	2.2		1.1
12	1	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.36	0.48	2.4		1.2
13	1	0.65	1.3	0.65	0.39	0.52	2.6		1.3
14	1	0.7	1.4	0.7	0.42	0.56	2.8		1.4
15	1	0.75	1.5	0.75	0.45	0.6	3		1.5
16	1	0.8	1.6	0.8	0.48	0.64	3.2		1.6
17	1	0.85	1.7	0.85	0.51	0.68	3.4		1.7
18	1	0.9	1.8	0.9	0.54	0.72	3.6		1.8
19	1	0.95	1.9	0.95	0.57	0.76	3.8		1.9
20	1	1	2	1	0.6	0.8	4		2
21	1	1.05	2.1	1.05	0.63	0.84	4.2		2.1
22	1	1.1	2.2	1.1	0.66	0.88	4.4		2.2
23	1	1.15	2.3	1.15	0.69	0.92	4.6		2.3
24	1	1.2	2.4	1.2	0.72	0.96	4.8		2.4
25	1	1.25	2.5	1.25	0.75	1	5		2.5

Anesthesia ProtoCol

Administering anesthesia requires precision, hygiene, and adherence to protocol. This section outlines the full procedure for weighing, calculating dosage, preparing medication, and administering anesthesia safely.

Weighing the Animal

- Ensure the weighing scale is functioning properly.
- Weigh the dog and record its weight accurately.
- Confirm the correct identification of the animal using the collar ID

Dosage Calculation

- Use the appropriate dosage chart based on the dog's weight.
- Refer to the clinic's standardised chart for anaesthesia and medication.

Medication Preparation

- Combine Butorphanol + Xylazine in one syringe.
- Use a 22G needle.
- Ensure the syringe is labelled and capped.

First Injection (Intramuscular – IM)

- Administer the first IM injection.
- Wait 10 minutes for the anaesthesia to take effect.
- Monitor the dog for signs of sedation.

Administration of Additional Medications

- At the prep table, administer:
 - Ketamine + Diazepam via the IV route
 - Ensure proper vein access and secure the IV line.

Important Notes

- Always use new needles for each animal to prevent cross-contamination.
- Maintain strict hygiene and aseptic technique throughout the process.

How to Give Injections

Administering injections is a routine but critical part of veterinary care. Proper technique ensures minimal discomfort, prevents complications, and supports effective drug delivery. This section outlines the stepby-step procedure for safe and humane injection practices.

Injection Procedure

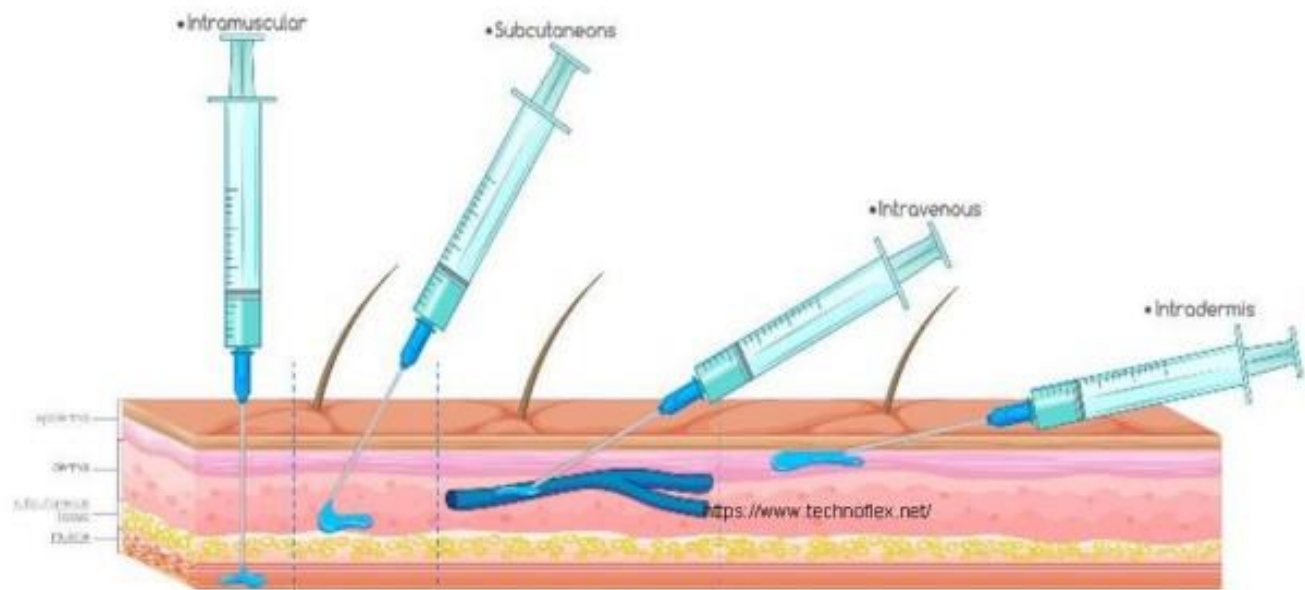
- **Test response to cap** (for IM injections)
- Assess if the dog is sensitive in that area.
- Reduce surprise or fear before needle insertion.
- Allow the dog to relax before proceeding.
- **Check for air bubbles in the syringe**
- Hold the syringe upright (needle pointing up).
- Tap gently to move bubbles to the top.
- Push the plunger slowly until a drop appears at the needle tip.
- Ensure no visible bubbles remain.
- **Insert and withdraw the needle slowly** to minimize discomfort.
- **Pause briefly** after the needle pierces the skin before injecting.
- **For Intramuscular (IM) injections**
- Ensure the needle reaches deep into the muscle tissue.
- Insert into the designated injection site.
- **Aspirate before injecting**
- Gently pull back the plunger for a second.
- If blood appears, stop and choose a different site.
- If no blood appears, proceed with the injection slowly.
- **Inject slowly** (e.g., 1mL over 5 seconds) to reduce pain and tissue damage.
- **Do not move the needle while injecting** - this can cause pain and injury.

Correct Techniques for Injection Types

- **Subcutaneous (SC):** Inject under the skin, avoiding muscle layers.
- **Intramuscular (IM):** Ensure the needle reaches the muscle tissue.

For Small Puppies

- Use an appropriate needle size to avoid excessive tissue trauma.
- Hold the puppy securely but gently to keep it calm



Handling and Restraint for Injections

Proper handling and restraint are essential for safe and humane injection procedures. The goal is to keep the dog calm, reduce stress, and ensure accurate administration of medication without causing harm or fear.

Guiding Principles

- Keep the dog calm and comfortable throughout the procedure.
- Use minimal restraint to reduce stress and make the injection easier.
- Do not use excessive force or unnecessary restraint - this increases stress and can make the procedure more difficult.

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Techniques to Assist with Handling

- **Distraction methods:** Petting or offering treats can help relax the dog.
- **Towel wrap:** Gently wrap the dog in a towel to secure movement and provide comfort.
- **Net use:** In some cases, using a net is acceptable for safety and stress management, especially with fearful or aggressive dogs.

These techniques should be applied with empathy and awareness of the dog's emotional state. The handler must remain calm and composed, adjusting the method based on the dog's response.



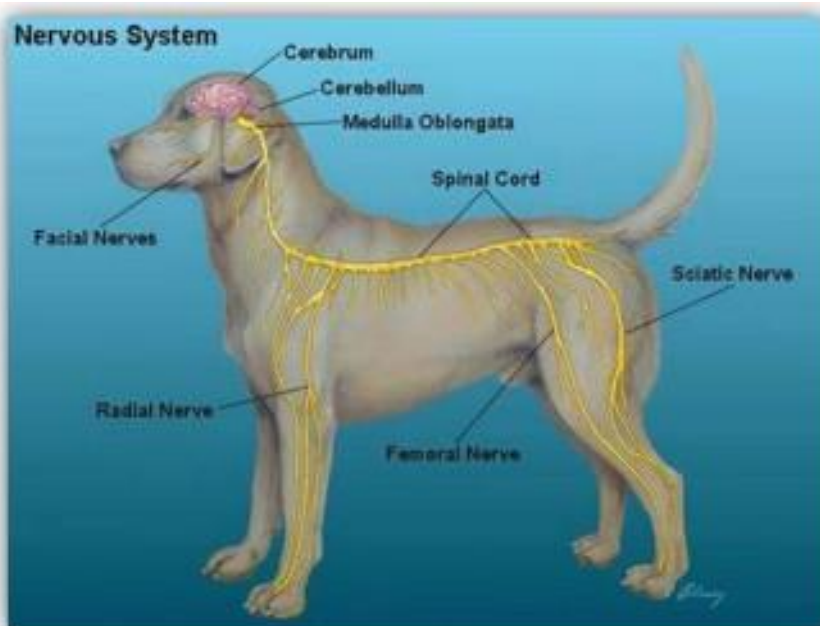
Intra-Muscular (IM) Injection Sites

Administering intramuscular injections requires anatomical awareness and precision. Incorrect techniques can cause severe pain or permanent injury. This section outlines safe practices for locating and using IM injection sites in dogs.

Avoid the Sciatic Nerve

- Take extreme care not to hit the sciatic nerve.
- This is extremely painful and can permanently paralyze the dog.
- If the dog cries or struggles during the injection:
 - You may have hit a nerve.
 - Re-check your injection site immediately.
 - Do not force the injection - stop and reassess.
- **Needle direction:** Aim the needle caudally (toward the back of the limb).
- This ensures that if the dog moves, the needle won't advance toward the sciatic nerve.
- **Muscle isolation:** Use your left hand to isolate the caudal muscle group from the femur.
- This stabilises the injection site and reduces risk.

The proper technique protects the dog from injury and ensures effective medication delivery.



Preparation for surgery

Prep Station Set-Up

Setting up the prep station is a critical step in ensuring a sterile and efficient surgical workflow. This section outlines the layout, materials, and organization required for a fully functional prep area.

Table Setup

- Cover two tables with plastic sheets:
- One for PREP
- One for SUPPLIES
- Position tables in an L-shape for optimal workflow.
- Ensure the layout allows easy access to all materials and smooth movement around the station.

Hand Hygiene and Cotton Preparation

- Thoroughly clean hands before handling any materials or animals.
- Prepare cotton balls in two sizes:
 - **Larger** - For cleaning the incision area
 - **Smaller** - For IV use
- Use approximately 1.5 rolls of cotton.
- Store prepared cotton balls in a designated tray or box.

Tray Supplies

Keep the following items organised in the tray:

- Pendistrin tube
- Scalp vein sets
- Shaving blades
- Ketamine and Diazepam + syringe (capped)
- Top-up syringe (capped)
- Gloves (1 box)
- 1 NS bottle and 2 flush syringes
- Micropore tape
- Trimmer
- ET tubes (Endotracheal tubes)

Other Supplies

Ensure the following items are available and organised:

- Cautery machine or soldering iron
- Large dustbin for waste disposal

- Sharps bottle for used needles and blades
- Elastic ties with hooks for securing the dog to the prep table
- Plastic mug for collecting male urine during prep

Spray Bottles

Prepare three spray bottles, each clearly labelled:

- Soap/Chlorhexidine
- Betadine
- Spirit

These are used for cleaning, disinfecting, and prepping the surgical site.

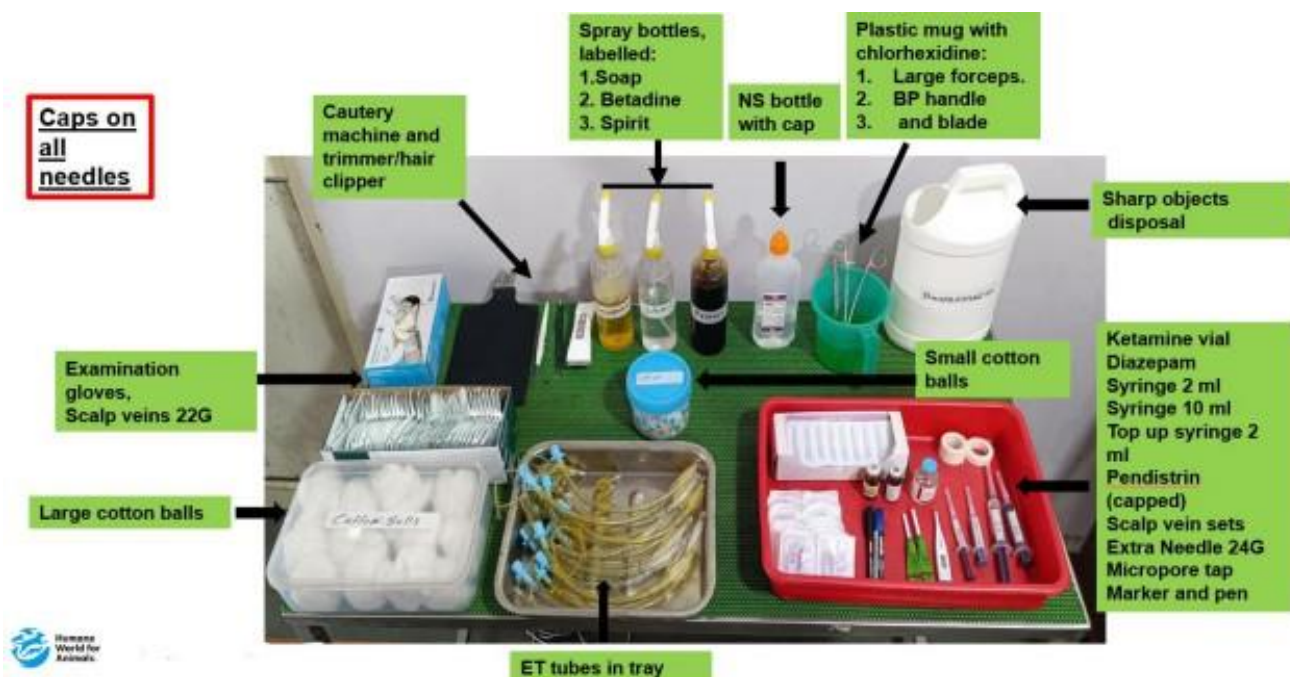
Sterilisation & Surgical Tools

Prepare two plastic mugs filled with chlorhexidine for soaking:

- BP blade with handle
- Large artery forceps

All items must be clean, sterile, and ready for use. The tray should be replenished regularly and checked for expiry dates and damage.

Prep Station Set-up



IV & Anesthesia

Shaving and scrubbing the surgical site is a critical step in maintaining asepsis and preparing the dog for surgery. This process must be done gently, thoroughly, and with full awareness of the dog's anesthetic depth.

Pre-Scrub Preparation

- Apply Pendistrin carefully. Do not let the tip of the tube touch the eye.
- Gently pull the tongue forward and to the side to maintain airway clearance.
- Monitor anaesthesia depth before proceeding.
- Secure the dog's leg with an elastic tie to assist with shaving.



Surgical Site Identification

- **Female dogs:** Midline abdominal area
- **Male dogs:** Pre-scrotal region



Shaving Procedure

- Wet the area with soapy water.
- Use sharp blades to carefully shave the surgical site.
- Rinse the area using chlorhexidine solution in a mug.
- Avoid cutting or nicking the skin.
- For male dogs:
 - Inject lignocaine intratesticularly for a testicular block.
 - Gently express the bladder if needed.

I believe we have started using a trimmer for shaving. Can we add that here?



Drug Administration and Final Flush

- Remove the flush syringe.
- Inject ketamine + diazepam IV slowly.
- Refer to the case record sheet for the correct dosage.
- Flush with 5-6 ml NS after drug administration.
- Secure the IV line using micropore tape.

This step ensures that the dog is properly anaesthetised and stable for surgical preparation.



Shave & Scrub

Shaving and scrubbing the surgical site is a critical step in maintaining asepsis and preparing the dog for surgery. This process must be done gently, thoroughly, and with full awareness of the dog's anesthetic depth.

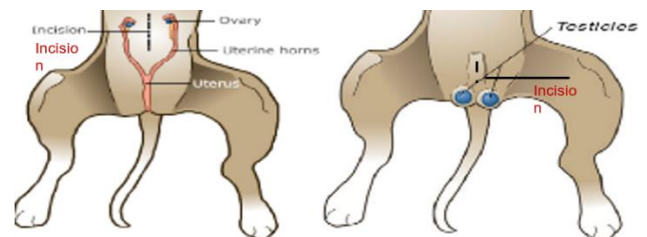
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Surgical Site Identification

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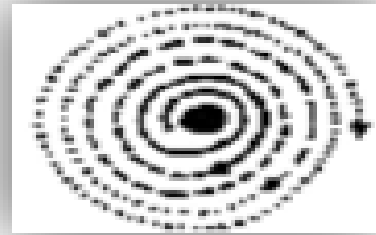
Scrubbing Procedure

- Use large cotton balls to clean the shaved area with soap.
- Spray betadine (povidone iodine) over the site.
- Scrub using clean cotton with firm but gentle strokes.
- Repeat the betadine scrub 3-4 times.
- Leave betadine on the skin during ear-notching.
- After ear-notching, scrub the area twice again



How to Scrub Properly

- Begin at the incision site.
- Scrub outwards in a slow, circular motion.
- Never scrub inward or re-touch previously cleaned areas.



Intra-Testicular Lignocaine Injection

- **Purpose:** Provides local anaesthesia to reduce pain during castration.
- **Timing:** Administer after shaving and scrubbing the surgical site.
- **Procedure:**
 - Use a sterile syringe and needle.
 - Inject lignocaine directly into each testicle (intra-testicular route).
 - Ensure correct dosage as per the clinic's standardised chart.
- **Precautions:**
 - Confirm deep sedation before injection.
 - Avoid accidental injection into surrounding tissues.
 - Monitor the dog for any adverse reaction.

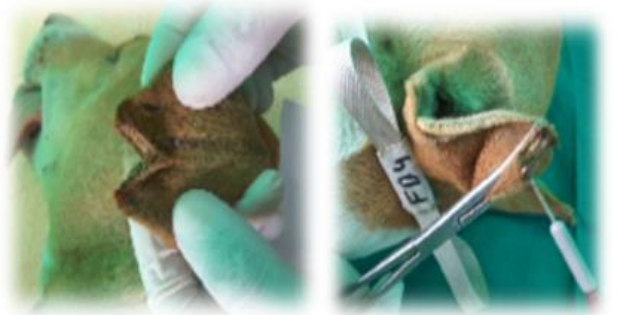


Ear Notching

Ear notching is a standard identification method used in ABC programs to mark sterilized dogs. It must be performed with precision and care under deep anesthesia to avoid pain and distress.

Ear Notching Procedure

- Fold the left ear in half vertically.
- This exposes the edge for a clean and consistent notch.
- Place artery forceps diagonally to form a “V” shape.
- This guides the cut and ensures uniformity.
- **Cut along the edge of the forceps.**
- Use sterile scissors or a blade.
- Wipe off any blood using a cotton ball and surgical spirit.
- **Seal the wound with cautery.**
- Ensure complete cauterisation along the entire cut, especially at the tips.
- This prevents bleeding and promotes healing.
- **Release the forceps after cauterisation is complete.**
- Check for any bleeding and re-cauterise if necessary.



Anesthesia Monitoring

- Before starting:
 - Check respiratory rate.
 - Check eye reflex
 - Ensure deep anesthesia
- During the procedure:
 - Continuously monitor the respiratory rate
 - Monitor eye reflex
 - Maintain deep anaesthesia throughout

Ear notching must be done only when the dog is fully anaesthetised to prevent pain and trauma.

EndotraCheal Tube (ET) Intubation

Endotracheal intubation is performed to secure the airway during general anesthesia. It prevents aspiration, allows delivery of oxygen and anesthetic gases, and ensures safe ventilation throughout the surgical procedure

Preparation

- **Purpose:**

- Ensure clear airways during general anaesthesia.
- Prevent aspiration of stomach contents and secretions
- Allow delivery of oxygen and anaesthetic gases.

- **Instructions:**

- Place the dog in sternal or lateral recumbency with the neck extended.
- Gently open the mouth.
- Visualise the larynx - identify the epiglottis and glottis.



Insertion

- **Insert the ET tube**

- Gently pass the lubricated ET tube between the vocal cords into the trachea.

- **Confirm placement:**

- Observe condensation inside the tube. • Feel for airflow from the tube opening.



Securing and Inflating

- **Secure the tube:**
 - Tie the tube around the snout using gauze.
- **Inflate the cuff:**
 - Use a syringe to gently inflate the cuff to prevent leakage and aspiration
- **Connect to circuit:**
 - Attach the tube to the breathing circuit of the anesthesia machine.



Precautions

- **Always choose the correct tube size:**
 - Too large can cause trauma.
 - Too small can lead to leaks.
- **Never force the tube:**
 - Risk of damaging the larynx or trachea.
- Ensure cuff inflation is not excessive to avoid tracheal injury.
- Maintain proper head and neck alignment to prevent obstruction or accidental extubation.



Step-by-Step Timing Guide

Efficient surgical preparation is essential for maintaining sterility, minimizing stress, and ensuring smooth workflow in the clinic. The following guide outlines each step involved in preparing a dog for surgery, along with the estimated time required for each task.

This timing guide helps ensure that surgical preparation is completed efficiently while maintaining high standards of care and sterility.

1	Weigh the animal and perform a quick health check before administering anesthesia	2-3 minutes
2	Administer Xylazine/Butorphanol for sedation	10 minutes (allow time for sedation to take effect)
3	Bring dog to preparation table; administer Ketamine + Diazepam intravenously (IV)	1-2 minutes
4	Prepare the surgical site	2-3 minutes
5	Empty the bladder to prevent accidents during surgery	1 minute
6	Wash the surgical area using soap and/or Savlon (antiseptic solution)	1 minute
7	Scrub the surgical site thoroughly with Betadine 3-4 times, then apply a final antiseptic layer and leave it (paint the site)	1-3 minutes
8	Perform ear-notching (for animal identification, if required)	2-3 minutes
9	Insert ET tube	1 minute
10	Do two final scrubs with Betadine and spray the area with spirit (alcohol)	1 minute

Surgery

Dog Transport After Anesthesia

Transporting anesthetized dogs requires careful handling to ensure safety, maintain sterility, and prevent injury. This section outlines best practices for moving dogs from the prep station to the operating theater (OT) and during post-operative recovery.

General Transport Guidelines

- Provide head support to prevent neck strain.
- Provide back support to stabilise the spine and body.
- Move slowly and gently to avoid jostling or injury.

Transport to Operating Theatre (OT)

- **Maintain IV access:** Ensure the intravenous line is properly secured and not dislodged.
- Continue to provide head and back support.
- **Maintain sterility:** Use clean stretchers and avoid contact with non-sterile surfaces.

Use of Stretchers

- Use appropriate stretchers:
- Hammock-style or wheeled stretchers are preferred.
- **Ensure proper support:**
 - Keep the dog's body stable and well-supported during movement.

Important Notes

- **Handling Large Dogs:** Always ask for help. Large dogs require additional assistance to prevent injury to both the animal and the handler.
- **Identification:** Place a paper tag in the collar for proper tracking and record-keeping.



SurgiCal Table Positions

Proper positioning of dogs on the surgical table is essential for safe and efficient spay or castration procedures. This section outlines the recommended setup for both female and male surgeries, ensuring optimal access and comfort for the surgical team.

Female Spay Procedure

- Position the dog on the left side of the surgical table.
- This setup is recommended for right-handed surgeons.
- The dog should be placed fully on her back.
- Secure all four legs using restraints to prevent movement

Male Castration Procedure

- Position the dog on the right side of the surgical table.
- This setup is also recommended for right-handed surgeons.
- The dog should lie on his side.
- Secure both hind legs and keep the front legs close to the body

Final Setup Instructions (For Both Procedures)

- Attach the IV line securely.
- Adjust the OT light to focus directly on the incision site.
- Place a clean instrument tray with the lid closed at the end of the table.
- Apply a final spray of antiseptic (spirit) on the surgical site right before the surgeon gloves up.

Correct positioning ensures surgical precision, minimises complications, and supports animal welfare throughout the procedure.



Surgery Room – Gaseous Anesthesia

Gaseous anesthesia is used to maintain a stable and controlled anesthetic depth during surgery. This section outlines the setup, administration, and safety precautions for using isoflurane via an endotracheal (ET) tube and vaporizer system.

Step-by-Step Procedure

- Connect the ET tube to the anaesthetic circuit
- Start oxygen flow at 1-2 L/min using the flowmeter.
- Ensure oxygen is flowing before turning on the anaesthetic gas.
- Begin isoflurane delivery using the vaporizer
- Start at 2-3% for induction.
- Adjust based on the depth of anaesthesia.
- Maintain anaesthesia depth by adjusting vaporiser settings:
- Typically, 1-2% for maintenance.
- **Observe for:**
 - Jaw tone
 - Eye position
 - Respiratory pattern
- Monitor response closely throughout the procedure.
- Discontinue isoflurane when surgery is complete
- Continue oxygen for 3-5 minutes to flush out residual gas.



Precautions

- Monitor for proper ventilation and avoid over-inflation.
- Never leave an animal unattended under gaseous anaesthesia.
- Always secure the ET tube and check for leaks.
- Replace soda lime when the color changes (from pink to white).

Enhanced Nursing Protocols – Surgical Assistance

Nursing staff plays a vital role in ensuring the success of surgical procedures. This section outlines enhanced nursing protocols for assisting in surgery, covering pre-operative setup, intraoperative support, and post-operative care.

Before Surgery Starts

- Ensure the dog is properly positioned on the surgical table.
- Confirm the OT light is adjusted and focused on the incision site.
- Verify that the IV fluid line and gaseous anesthesia circuit are connected and functioning

Ensure Proper Record-Keeping

- Maintain accurate documentation of the procedure and all medications administered.
- Use the case record sheet and dosage charts for reference.

Preparing the Surgical Field

- Assist the surgeon by opening and handing over sterile gloves.
- Open the autoclave drum to retrieve the surgical pack.
- Lift the lid of the sterile instrument tray and prepare instruments.



Intraoperative Support

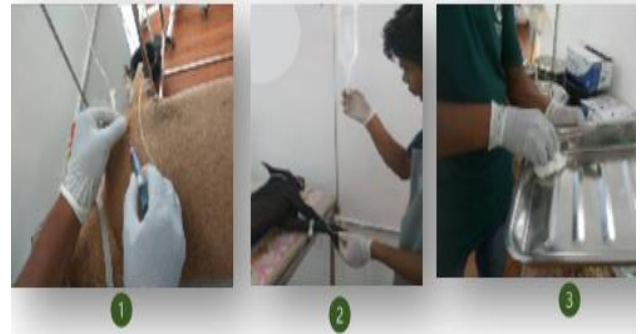
- If bleeding occurs, assist with adrenaline splash.
- Continuously monitor gaseous anaesthesia and pulse oximeter.
- Provide the correct suture materials promptly.
- Administer medications as per the dosage chart:
 - Meloxicam (S/C)
 - Ivermectin (S/C)
 - Penicillin (I/M)



Important Notes: Important: Never pass a suture from hand to hand. Always place it on a sterile surface for retrieval by another person to avoid contamination.

Post-Surgery Protocol

- At the end of the procedure, administer the Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) injection.
- Disconnect the IV line and gaseous anaesthesia circuit with the ET tube still in place.
- Apply Aluspray to the surgical wound.
- Use spirit to clean the instrument tray and then the entire surgery table.



These protocols ensure a sterile environment, proper medication administration, and safe recovery for the dog.

Complete nurse station set up for surgery



Post-Operative Care and Recovery

Post-operative recovery is a critical phase in the ABC process. A calm, clean, and well-prepared environment ensures a smooth transition from anesthesia to full consciousness, minimizing stress and promoting healing.

Prepare, CheCk, and Keep Dry

Calm Environment:

Maintain a quiet, low-stimulation space to support a smooth recovery from anaesthesia. Avoid loud noises, bright lights, or unnecessary movement around dogs.

Prepare the Recovery Area:

- **Clean & Ready Space:** Ensure the area is clean, dry, and equipped with a bed or padded mat and blanket.
- **Bedding:** Use a thick blanket or padded mat. Ensure it is flat and wrinkle-free to prevent pressure sores.
- **Recovery Kit Checklist:**
 - Thermometer
 - Whiteboard marker
 - Cotton with spirit
 - Scalp vein sets
 - Needles and syringes
 - Stethoscope
 - Yohimbine
 - Diazepam
 - Dexamethasone
- **Cleaning Supplies:** Keep disinfectants and cleaning materials within easy reach.



Winter Warmth Tip:

Use hot water gloves wrapped in cloth or paper to provide warmth. Never place directly on the skin to avoid burns.

Positioning for Recovery

Sternal Recumbency:

- **Step 1:** Place the dog on its sternum (chest) with forelimbs extended forward and head resting between the limbs.
- **Step 2:** Use a towel wrap to provide stability. Ensure the left ear notch is upright for visibility and monitoring



Keep Dry and Monitor

- **Clean Immediately:** Wipe away vomit or urine promptly to maintain hygiene and comfort.
- **No Food or Water:** Do not offer food or water until the dog is fully awake and responsive.



Monitoring During Recovery

Continuous monitoring during the recovery phase is essential to ensure the dog regains consciousness safely and without complications. Field and clinic teams must remain vigilant and responsive throughout this period.

Key Indicators to Monitor:

- **Tongue Position:**
 - A hanging tongue may indicate deep sedation or unconsciousness. Gently reposition if needed to prevent airway obstruction.
- **Ear Movement:**
 - Slight twitching or movement of the ears can signal that the dog is beginning to regain consciousness.
- **Breathing:**
 - Monitor for steady and regular respiration.
- **Normal rate:**
 - 10-30 breaths per minute
 - Watch for laboured or shallow breathing, which may indicate complications.
- **Temperature & Paws:**
 - Use a thermometer to check the body temperature.
 - Normal range: 100-102.8°F
 - Feel the paws for warmth- cold paws may indicate hypothermia.
- **Recovery Time:**
 - Most dogs begin to wake within 15-20 minutes of post-surgery.
 - Track time to detect delayed recovery or complications.
- **Head Protection:**
 - As the dog begins to stir, cushion the head to prevent injury from sudden movements or disorientation

Vital Monitoring Protocol:

- **Monitor recovery continuously**
 - Check respiratory rate regularly
 - Palpate gums to assess perfusion and colour
 - Record rectal temperature every 15 minutes
 - Log all vitals in the Recovery Sheet

This vigilant monitoring ensures early detection of complications and supports a safe, humane recovery process.

Post-Operative Medication Schedule

The following table outlines the standard post-operative care and medication protocol for dogs recovering from sterilization surgery. This ensures pain management, infection control, and proper wound healing.

Note: Allu Spray = Micronized Aluminium Powder

Day 2	Meloxicam	SC	Pain relief
	Allu Spray	Topical	Apply on surgical site
Day 3	Allu Spray	Topical	Re-application
	Penicillin	IM	As per dosage chart
Day 4	Routine Check-up	-	General health monitoring
Day 5	Allu Spray	Topical	Final application before release
	Penicillin	IM	As per dosage chart

Post-Operative Monitoring – Vital Signs & Red Flags

Each dog must be monitored individually by a trained Animal Care Officer (ACO) or handler until full recovery is achieved. The first few hours post-surgery are critical for identifying complications and ensuring a safe recovery.

Standard Vital Signs for Dogs:

Parameter	Small Dogs	Medium Dogs	Pupp	Normal Range
Heart Rate (bpm)	100-160	60-100	120-160	Based on size/age
Respiratory Rate	-	-	-	10-30 breaths per minute
Temperature (°F)	-	-	-	100.0-102.8°F

Immediate Vet Notification Required If:

- Respiratory rate is <10 or >30 breaths per minute
- Temperature is <98°F or >103°F
- Dog is crying or vocalising continuously for more than 30 seconds

Comfort & Observation Tips:

- Always keep the dog warm and comfortable
- Monitor vital signs regularly and record in the Recovery Sheet
- Early detection of abnormalities ensures timely veterinary intervention

Post-Operative Home Care – Caretaker Guidelines

After ABC surgery, community and owned dogs require proper care at home to ensure a safe and smooth recovery. The following table outlines general care instructions and red flags for which caretakers should contact a veterinarian.

General Care Instructions (Days 1–5):

A sterilised dog lives a longer, healthier, and happier life. Protect your community - vaccinate and sterilise your dogs.

Rest Period	Allow the dog to rest for 3-5 days post-surgery.
Environment	Provide a clean, quiet, and comfortable sleeping area
Water	Ensure fresh drinking water is available at all times.
Feeding	Offer a light meal for the first 24 hours. Resume normal feeding after 24 hours.
Exercise	Avoid rough play or excessive exercise during recovery.
Bathing	Do not bathe the dog for two weeks after surgery.

When to Call the Vet:

Check	Required
Wound Monitoring	Check the surgical wound twice daily (morning and evening). Do not touch the wound.
Call the Vet If You Notice:	Bleeding from the wound Swelling or redness around the wound Sutures opening or internal organs visible
Other Warning Signs:	Loss of appetite or vomiting The dog refuses to move even after 24 hours Excessive licking of the wound (use an e-collar if needed)
Support	Contact the helpline number for any questions or concerns.

Surgical Instrument & Drape Cleaning Protocol

Proper cleaning of surgical instruments, drapes, scrubs, and towels is essential to maintain hygiene, prevent infections, and ensure safe surgical outcomes. This protocol must be followed strictly after every surgery.

Immediately After Surgery:

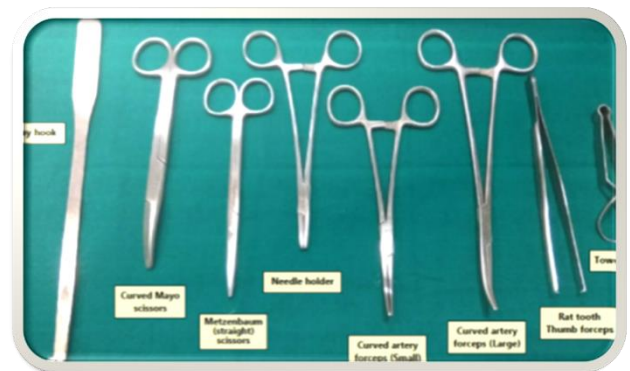
- Collect all used drapes and instruments together for cleaning.

Drapes Cleaning Instructions:

- Check each drape for any tape or instruments left inside.
- Place drapes only in the washing machine with detergent.
- Dry completely before reuse.
- **Do not mix drapes with scrubs or towels.**

Instrument Cleaning Process:

- Soak instruments in a tub with detergent.
- Scrub thoroughly with a brush to remove all debris.
- Rinse with clean water.
- Perform a final rinse with fresh water.
- Let the instruments air dry or dry using a clean drape cloth.
- **Ensure no detergent residue remains. Instruments must be completely dry before autoclaving.**



Washing Scrubs & Hand Towels:

- Wash scrubs and hand towels separately in the washing machine with detergent.
- **Do not mix with drapes or instruments.**

Surgical Pack Contents – Male & Female

Each surgical pack must be complete, sterile, and organized before every procedure. The contents vary slightly between male and female surgeries. All items must be checked, counted, and packed carefully to ensure surgical efficiency and safety.

Female Surgical Pack:

- **Instruments:**

- 1 Rat tooth thumb forceps
- 1 Metzenbaum (straight) scissors
- 1 Needle holder
- 1 Large artery forceps
- 4 Small artery forceps
- 3 Towel clamps

- **Additional Items:**

- 1 Surgical blade (sealed pack)
- No. 9 and No. 11 surgical needles
- 3 pieces of sterile gauze
- 1 Surgical drape



Note: Spay hook is autoclaved separately and not included in the main pack.

Male Surgical Pack:

- **Instruments:**

- 1 Rat tooth thumb forceps
- 1 Curved Mayo scissors
- 1 Needle holder
- 3 Small artery forceps
- 2 Towel clamps

- **Additional Items:**

- 1 Surgical blade (sealed pack)
- No. 9 and No. 11 surgical needles
- 2 pieces of sterile gauze
- 1 Surgical drape



All surgical packs must be laid out on a sterile surface before surgery. Ensure that all instruments are accounted for before and after the procedure. Damaged or missing instruments must be reported and replaced immediately.

Autoclave Sterilization Protocol

Sterilization is a critical step in maintaining aseptic conditions in the clinic. The autoclave uses high-pressure steam to eliminate all microorganisms from surgical instruments, drapes, and other materials. Follow this step-by-step protocol to ensure effective and safe sterilization.

Step 1: Load the Autoclave:

- Place instrument sets, drapes, towels, and extra materials into the autoclave drums.
- Ensure each pack and the outside of each drum has a strip of autoclave tape.
- **Ensure air vents are OPEN before starting the process.**

Step 2: Fill with Water:

- Fill the autoclave with RO (Reverse Osmosis) water.
- Water must completely cover the coil but should not cover the stand.

Step 3: Start the Autoclave:

- Place the two autoclave drums into the autoclave.
- Tighten all valves securely.
- Turn on the autoclave and start the cycle

Step 4: Monitor Sterilisation:

- Keep a close watch on the gauge.
- Ensure the autoclave reaches and maintains the required parameters for at least 30 minutes:
 - **Autoclave Time Chart:**
 - Temperature: 121°C
 - Pressure: 15 lb
 - Time: 30 minutes

Step 5: Completion & Cooling:

- Once sterilisation is complete, turn off the autoclave.
- Immediately close the vents to prevent contamination.
- Allow the drums to cool down completely before opening.
- Once cooled, instruments are ready for use.

Step 1: Load the Autoclave:

- Place instrument sets, drapes, towels, and extra materials into the autoclave drums.
- Ensure each pack and the outside of each drum has a strip of autoclave tape.
- **Ensure air vents are OPEN before starting the process.**
- **Check Autoclave Tape:**
 - Always verify that the autoclave tape has changed colour to confirm successful sterilisation.
 - The tape will show a distinct colour change after proper sterilisation.



Operation Theatre (OT) Protocol

Operation Theatre (OT) Protocol

The Operation Theatre (OT) is a highly sterile and controlled environment where surgical procedures are performed. Maintaining strict hygiene and aseptic protocols is essential to ensure patient safety and prevent infections.

Restricted Area:

Only **authorised personnel** are allowed inside the OT. Entry must be limited to trained staff involved in surgical procedures.

Silence Please:

Maintain **silence** inside the OT. Avoid unnecessary conversations and **do not use mobile phones**. A quiet environment supports focus and reduces the risk of contamination.

Proper Attire:

All personnel must wear:

- Surgical cap
- Surgical mask.

These are mandatory to prevent contamination from hair, breath, or saliva.

OT Slippers Only:

Use **designated OT slippers** inside the operating theatre. Outdoor footwear must be removed before entering to maintain cleanliness.

Asepsis Protocols:

Strict aseptic techniques must be always followed:

- Ensure that all surfaces and instruments are sterilised.
- Avoid touching sterile areas with unclean hands or gloves.
- Follow hand hygiene and gowning protocols before entering the sterile zone.

Let's work together to uphold the highest standards of asepsis:

Following these protocols helps create a safe and efficient surgical space for both patients and professionals.

Kennel, Post-Op and Recovery

This section will cover protocols for kennel management, post-operative care, and recovery processes to ensure animal welfare and smooth rehabilitation after surgery.

Kennel Housing

Accommodations are provided for dogs in kennels, where they are housed in a safe and comfortable environment.

Capacity:

- Maximum 70% floor coverage when dogs are lying down.
- Always leave one empty kennel for emergencies.
- 1 or 2 animals per box, depending on size and temperament

Comfort:

- Ensure a clean, comfortable, safe, and healthy environment for each animal.
- The dog must be able to stand fully, sit, and turn around comfortably inside the kennel.
- **Ventilation**
 - Adequate airflow to prevent heat stress and maintain hygiene.
- The location must provide shelter from direct sunlight, rain, and wind.
- Keep the area clean, free from insects, and quiet (avoid loud noises).
- **Temperature Guidelines:**
 - Summer max: 35°C
 - Winter min: 15°C

Single Kennel Allocation:

- Aggressive or fighting dogs
- Females in heat
- Scared or young puppies
- Sick or injured dogs (under treatment)

Proper kennel housing ensures animal welfare, reduces stress, and supports smooth recovery after surgery



Kennel Housing – Additional Guidelines

Animals Should Be Housed Together:

Respect welfare conditions in the following situations:

- Mothers and their puppies should be kept together.
- Dogs from the same location should be housed together.
- Dogs from the same pack should be kept together.

Double Level Security:

Any dog must pass through a minimum of 2 gates before exiting the facility.

Kennel Safety:

- Ensure there are no sharp edges inside the kennels.
- Make sure puppies cannot get stuck between bars or escape.
- Repair or modify broken kennels promptly to maintain safety.

Repair or modify broken kennels promptly to maintain safety.



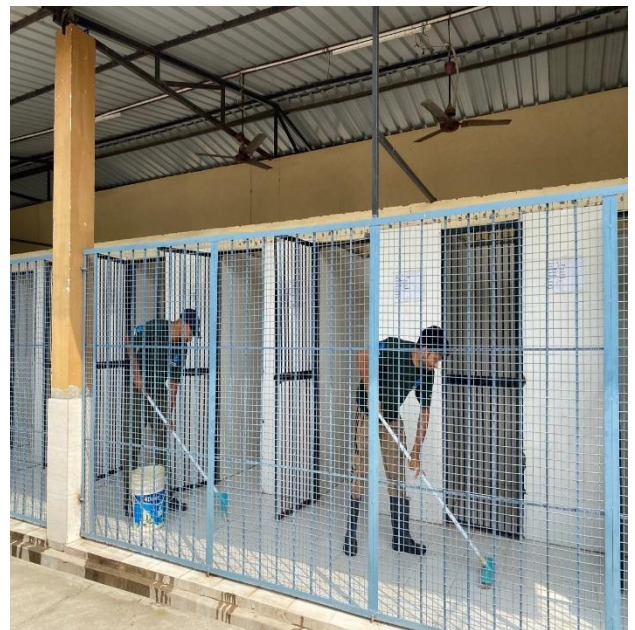
Daily Kennel Cleaning ProtoCol

A systematic cleaning routine is essential to prevent the spread of diseases and ensure well-being

Consider the Following Recommendations:

- All facilities occupied by animals must be cleaned daily.
- All animals should be removed while the kennel/cattery is being cleaned.
- All objects, such as bowls and beds, must be moved and cleaned
- Floors and walls must be thoroughly cleaned.
- If any signs of illness, such as bloody stools, diarrhoea, vomiting, or regurgitation, are noticed, call the veterinarian in charge before proceeding with the cleaning.

Proper cleaning prevents disease transmission and ensures a healthy environment for recovery.



Daily Kennel Cleaning – Worker Safety

Health and Safety First:

- The health and safety of workers should always be the top priority.
- The person responsible for cleaning must always wear gloves, boots, and masks.
- Proper protective gear prevents exposure to harmful pathogens and cleaning chemicals

Daily Kennel Cleaning – Step-by-Step Process

Empty the Kennel:

- Move the dogs to another location.
- Remove all mats and bowls from the kennel.

Scoop:

- Ensure no solids (faeces, food, or debris) are left in the drain.
- Use a scoop to collect solids and dispose of them in a waste bin.

Clean:

- Clean walls up to 2 feet high.
- Use water and neutral soap to scrub the kennel.
- Rinse the area thoroughly with clean water

Disinfect and Dry:

- Use disinfectants like phenyl or bleach.
- Allow the disinfectant to sit for the required contact time.
- Rinse thoroughly with water afterwards.
- Dry the environment in case of prolonged humidity.



Flush the Drain:

- Make sure no solids are flushed into the drain.
- Sweep any remaining solids into the dustbin before flushing.
- Ensure the drain is flushed properly with water

Water & Feeding Protocols

Water:

- **Clean:** Water should be clear, without visible particles, sediments, or discolouration. It must be free from floating debris or cloudiness.
- **Accessible:** Water must be easily reachable by the dog, with no obstacles or difficulties preventing drinking.
- **Available 24/7:** Water should be available at all times, except in cases of extreme cold, when it should be removed overnight to prevent accidents where the dog might get wet.

Feeding:

- Feed twice daily (morning and evening).
- Provide one clean bowl per dog - no sharing.
- Never feed near dirt, urine, or faeces.
- Prepare balanced food safely, avoiding contamination.

Water & Feeding Protocols – Attention Points

Animals Display Dominant Behaviour:

- Dominant dogs may prevent others from eating.
- Monitor feeding closely to ensure all dogs eat properly.

Monitor Feeding:

- If animals are not eating, report it to the veterinarian immediately.

Actions to Help Animals Feed:

- Offer food directly on the floor.
- Offer food by hand if necessary.
- Provide a treat or biscuit to encourage eating.
- Observe and remove any stressor or cause of fear for the animal, such as:
 - Other dogs
 - Loud sounds
 - Presence of humans

Kennel ID Board Format

Key Details:

- Every dog wears a collar with a unique ID tag.
- **Use the Kennel ID Board to record:**
 - Dog ID
 - Colour
 - Sex
 - Health notes
 - Feeding updates
 - Classify dogs by coat colour using a standard colour card (e.g., black, brown, brindle, white, mix).

No.	Tag ID	Color	Sex	Remarks
1	AA 1	Brown	M	
2	AA 2	Brown/White	M	Swelling – treatment
3	AB 1	Black	F	
4	AC 1	Black/Tan	F	
5	AD 1	Brindle	F	No eat
6	AD 2	White	F	
7	AD 3	White/Black	F	

Total = 7 dogs

Post-Op and Recovery

Post-operative checks of all dogs after surgery should be done on a daily basis

Timing:

- Conduct post-operative checks in the morning, after kennel cleaning has been completed.
- These checks must be carried out by one veterinarian and one Animal Care Officer (ACO) experienced in handling animals.

Procedure:

- Ensure the kennel is clean.
- Observe the general behaviour of the dogs inside the kennel.
- Verify that the collar ID matches the ID number on the kennel board.
- Minimise handling, especially with shy or fearful dogs, when inspecting the incision site.
- When lifting, carefully support the dog's body to avoid stretching the abdomen.
- The veterinarian should enter the kennel for post-operative checks, except in rare cases where there is a safety risk (e.g., a small kennel and an aggressive dog).

Post-Op and Recovery – What to Report

Monitoring and reporting abnormalities is critical for timely intervention and animal welfare.

Stool (Faeces) and Vomit:

- **What to report:** Any abnormalities in the colour or smell of stool or vomit, as well as the presence of diarrhoea.
- **Why it matters:** Abnormal stool or vomit could indicate digestive issues, infections, or other health problems. Early detection ensures prompt treatment.

Blood:

- **What to report:** Any bleeding, whether from a wound or in the dog's vomit, urine, or faeces.
- **Why it matters:** Bleeding could signal injury, internal health issues, or surgical complications. Immediate action is needed if any bleeding is observed.

Sick or in Pain:

- **What to report:** Signs that a dog is unwell or in pain, such as refusing to eat, not sleeping, lack of responsiveness, coughing, or discharge from the nose/eyes.
- **Why it matters:** Dogs may not always show clear signs of illness. Subtle changes in behaviour could indicate discomfort. Prompt reporting helps prevent worsening of the condition.

Fighting or Biting:

- **What to report:** Any fight between dogs or incidents where a dog bites staff.
- **Why it matters:** Fighting can lead to serious injuries. Monitoring aggressive behaviour is essential for safety and management.

Stress:

- **What to report:** Signs of stress in dogs, such as biting the bars of the kennel, excessive barking, or attempts to escape.
- **Why it matters:** Stress negatively affects recovery and well-being. Identifying and addressing stress helps create a calmer environment for dogs.

Kennel Environment:

- The kennels should always be CLEAN, COMFORTABLE, & QUIET.
- Continuously check dog body language for signs of stress and/or pain.

Do Not Ignore Dog Barking!

- Kennel staff must investigate barking or crying immediately.
- Resolve the situation and/or report to the veterinarian on duty if needed.

Signs & Symptoms That the Dog Is Sick

Monitor dogs daily for the following signs:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Coughing or honking
- Prolonged lethargy
- Dry, red, or cloudy eyes
- Altered breathing, difficulty breathing, panting, or breathlessness
- High or low body temperature
- Urinary changes
- Change in appetite or refusal to eat

Early detection of these symptoms ensures timely veterinary intervention and prevents complications.

Pain Management – CSU (Colorado State University) Canine Acute Pain Scale (CAPS)

Pain management is a critical component of post-operative care. Assessing pain accurately ensures timely intervention and improves recovery outcomes.

Why Pain Management Matters:

- Uncontrolled pain can delay healing, increase stress, and lead to complications.
- Regular pain assessment helps determine if additional analgesia or supportive care is needed.

CAPS – Pain Score Levels:

The CSU Canine Acute Pain Scale uses behavioural and physical indicators to assess pain severity:

- **Score 0 – Comfortable, Relaxed**
 - Normal posture, relaxed body, normal response to palpation.
 - Minimal tension.
- **Score 1 – Mild Discomfort**
 - Slightly unsettled or restless, mild guarding of incision site.
 - Mild tension on palpation.
- **Score 2 – Moderate Pain**
 - Less comfortable, whimper or lick the incision site.
 - Moderate tension reacts to palpation.
- **Score 3 – Significant Pain**
 - Persistent crying, guarding, reluctance to move.
 - Moderate to marked tension, strong reaction to palpation.
- **Score 4 – Severe Pain**
 - Constant vocalisation, severe guarding, and aggression when touched.
 - Extreme tension, unable to settle.

Key Observations During Assessment:

- **Behaviour:** Restlessness, vocalisation, guarding, licking the incision site.
- **Response to Palpation:** Increased sensitivity or aggression when touched.
- **Body Tension:** From minimal to extreme stiffness

Daily Facility Cleaning & Disinfecting

Maintaining a clean and disinfected environment is essential for preventing disease transmission and ensuring animal welfare. This protocol applies to all areas and equipment used in the ABC program.

Dog-Holding Facilities & Equipment:

- All kennels (when empty) & walkway area
- Holding area
- Vehicle & rubber mat
- Nets, leashes, and muzzles
- Kennel rubber mats

Cleaning Equipment:

- All mops, sponges, gum boots, and any cloths used on the floor must be disinfected properly.

Key Guideline:

- A properly cleaned and disinfected facility/equipment **should have no smell.**
- **Do NOT disguise poor cleaning with excessive use of phenyl or perfumes.**

Additional Welfare Reminder – The Five Freedoms

Animal welfare is the foundation of the ABC program. Every protocol must uphold the **Five Freedoms**, which represent the core principles of humane care:

- Freedom from Fear & Distress
- Freedom from Hunger & Thirst
- Freedom from Pain, Injury, and Disease
- Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour
- Freedom from Discomfort

Commitment: “Will you ensure my 5 Freedoms?”

These freedoms must guide every decision and action in the ABC program - from catching and transport to surgery and recovery

 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst: Street dogs should have access to clean water and a balanced diet that meets their nutritional needs.	 2. Freedom from discomfort: Street dogs should have access to a comfortable living environment with appropriate shelter, bedding, and temperature.	 3. Freedom from pain, injury, and disease: Street dogs should receive necessary medical care and be protected from harm.
 4. Freedom to express normal behavior: Street dogs should be able to engage in natural behaviors, such as exploring, playing, and socializing.	 5. Freedom from fear and distress: Street dogs should be kept in an environment that minimizes stress and fear, with positive reinforcement training methods.	



**Humane World
for Animals™**

Formerly known as
Humane Society International India

About us

Together, we tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering to create permanent change.

With millions of supporters and work happening in over 50 countries, Humane World for Animals—formerly called Humane Society International—addresses the most deeply entrenched forms of animal cruelty and suffering. As the leading voice in the animal protection space, we work to end the cruelest practices, care for animals in crisis, and build a stronger animal protection movement.

Driving toward the greatest global impact, we aim to achieve the vision behind our name:
a more humane world.