



**Ministry of Environment and Forests**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**Draft Pet Shop Rules, 2010**

**Preamble:**

It is observed that live animals are often showcased, exhibited and traded like commodities in pet shops or other shops selling animals alive. The ways in which many animals and birds are handled or managed are not always ideal. Many pet shops are established next to butcher shops where, carcasses of slaughtered animals/ birds are hung for sale in full vision of the live animals waiting to be sold. Cages are often crammed with animals or birds and exhibited out side the shops along with hoardings or in front of shops in open sun light. There is presently no deterrent law specific to ensure humane handling and comfort to animals in pet shops. The power to close shops lies with local bodies who grant permission to open shops (license). These rules are made to ensure that live animals sold as pets or as commodity, receive proper care and stress free humane treatment so long as they are in the possession of shop keepers.

**The Rules**

As is required under the sub-section (1) of section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960), government hereby publish the following rules in a draft form in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, for securing the objections and suggestions from all persons likely to be affected thereby. Any objection or suggestion may be sent to the central govt. before the expiry of 30 days from the date on which copies of the gazette containing the said notification have been made available to the public or organizations or government offices. The rules shall be enforced in all pet shops of India which are licensed by local bodies and sell animals or birds to the public.

**1. Short title and commencement:**

- (1) These rules may be called the **Pet Shop Rules, 2010**.
- (2) These rules shall come into being on the date they are published in the Official Gazette.

**2. Definitions:**

In these rules unless the context otherwise specifies –

- (1) “Act” means the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960);
- (2) “Animal” means any living creature other than human being.
- (3) “Board” or “AWBI” means the Animal Welfare Board of India, established under section 4 of the act and/or as re-constituted from time to time under section 5A.



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(4) “**Inspector**” means a person appointed by Board, the local body / authority or SPCA to inspect/ supervise implementation of these rules.

(5) “**Rules**” means Pet Shop Rules, 2010

(6) **Pet Shop** means any shop where animals are housed and exhibited for sale. This does not include farms, cattle fares or traditional weekly markets which are part of traditional life style of the community.

(7) **Pets**: means animals which are reared under human care and those that can not survive without minimal care, support and love from human masters. By dictionary it also means Animals kept for amusement, companionship as object of the affection; an animal especially loved or indulged as favorite.

(8) **Pet Shop keeper(s)** means any person(s) who is/ are the legal owner(s) of the shop and is licensed to sell or trade animals or his (her) representative authorized to do business on his/ her behalf.

(9) “**Animal Welfare Organisation**” means a Welfare Organisation for animals which is registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 (21 of 1860) or any other corresponding law for the time being in force and is recognised thus by the Board or the Central Government.

(10) “**local authority**” means a panchayat, corporation, municipal board of municipal committee

(11) “**Local welfare authority**”, means State Animal Welfare Board, a committee or district board or SPCA authorised thus by AWBI for the control and administration of any matter relating to these rules in a specified area from time to time.

(12) “**Society**” means Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (hereinafter referred to as SPCA) established in any district under **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Establishment and Regulation of Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Rules, 2001**.

(13) “**Veterinary doctor**” or **RVP** means a Registered Veterinary Practitioner registered with the State Veterinary Council and whose name for the time being is included in the Indian Veterinary practitioners’ register established under the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984 (52 of 1984).

### 3. Objectives of the licensing Pet Shop

1. To regulate privately operating individual/groups of pet shops who are carrying out business in the sale of pet animals within the jurisdiction of the any local authority.
2. To ensure that animals are adequately supplied food and drinking water.
3. That animals are not sold at a tender age.
4. That all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent unnatural deaths and spread of infectious diseases.
5. To extend powers of inspection of such establishments



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6. To regulate sale of animals allowed to be kept as pets
7. Setting-up technical guidelines for them to do this activity and operational standards for a pet shop or pet grooming facility, including minimum standard for sanitation, ventilation, heating, cooling, humidity, special and enclosure requirements; nutrition, medical treatment; methods of operations; maintenance of records concerning health care.
8. To take action against erring pet shop owners.

**4. Terms & conditions for grant of licence to pet shops**

1. Each applicant for approval for pet shop licence or renewal shall submit an application to the local body with a copy to Animal Welfare Board of India providing all required information in the form and manner required.
2. An individual must be at least eighteen (18) years of age to be issued a valid licence. The applicant shall apply to obtain the licence to local body with copy to AWBI in the prescribed format annexed with the policy.
3. Each applicant shall have their facilities inspected by the local body and rep of AWBI, for the determination of whether said applicant is in full compliance with these rules and regulations, prior to any decision of approval being made.
4. The licence to the pet shops shall be granted by local body after joint inspection with the representative/s of Animal Welfare Board of India.
5. The local body would conduct inspection of the premises/shop along with rep of AWBI. If upon inspection, the team constituted in this regard is not satisfied, the application for grant of licence shall be rejected without assigning any reason thereof. However, the pet shop owner shall have the right to appeal within 20 days of receipt of letter of rejection to the Commissioner of the local body and AWBI, who after examination either may reject his appeal or may allow the same to re-examine his application for license.
6. A license will not be approved if
  - (a) The terms & conditions given in the policy are not fulfilled by the applicant.
  - (b) The applicant has submitted falsified information or making a material and deliberate misstatement on the application and making false or fraudulent statement or providing false or fraudulent records to the licensing authority.
  - (c) The applicant has refused to allow the inspector designated by the Licensing authority free and unimpeded access to the premises.
7. If any violation of terms & conditions of the licensing policy of pet shop is found during the inspection of pet shop by the person authorized by local body and AWBI at any time during the term of license, the same shall be revoked by the local body without assigning any reason thereof. However, the pet shop owner would have the right to appeal against such revocation to the Commissioner of the local body within 20 days of revocation, who will be the final authority to decide whether to accept /reject the appeal.
8. The licence will be for one-year duration only, subject to renewal after inspection. All licences will expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and will automatically terminate, if not renewed. The licence must be renewed within a month of expiry i.e. up to 30<sup>th</sup> April.
9. A licence shall not be transferable upon change of ownership or any other significant change of business or operation, nor is it valid at a different location.
10. No licence shall be required for the following premises:
  - (a) An animal shelter operated by or on behalf of a public authority.



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- (b) An animal shelter operated by a recognized animal rescue organization or Animal Welfare Organization dedicated to the rights of animals.
- (c) A veterinary hospital or clinic.
11. All licences shall display prominently that the premises/establishment has been licenced for the sale of animals.
  12. No pet shop shall sell any animal intended to be used for food.
  13. The species and numbers of animals on sale shall be prominently displayed.
  14. The name of the breeder(s) with address(s) shall be displayed on the enclosures of all animals.
  15. All animal husbandry procedures for animal care, management and safe handling for each species in the pet shop shall be maintained and followed.
  16. Written protocols for disease prevention and control, routine care, preventative care, emergency care, veterinary treatment, and euthanasia shall be maintained and followed.
  17. Suitable fire fighting equipment must be provided, maintained, regularly serviced.
  18. Necessary arrangements for disaster, evacuation and recovery that is appropriate to the location of the pet shop shall be maintained and followed.
  19. The services of veterinarian must be provided to the animals and all veterinary records must be maintained and provided to the purchaser.
  20. All animals and birds that are unwell or suspected of disease will not be brought to the selling premises until they have been declared healthy by a veterinary doctor.
  21. Animals purchasers shall be supplied information applicable to the species of animals sold.
  22. Animals must at all times be kept in accommodation and environment suitable to their species with respect to situation, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness and not exposed to draughts. All accommodation must be kept in good order.
  23. Accommodation must be cleaned as often as necessary to maintain good hygiene standards. Where accommodation is on a tiered system, water, food or other droppings must not be allowed to enter the lower housing.
  24. All accessories provided in the accommodation must be suitable for the species.
  25. No animals/birds shall be displayed out side the shop.
  26. No animals and birds will be left in the shop at night. However in case animals/birds have to be kept in the shop, attendant should be provided to take care of them at night.
  27. The animals and birds kept in the premises must be provided fresh, wholesome, properly stored, odour free food appropriate to the species at regular intervals.
  28. Potable fresh water for drinking purpose shall be provided at all time.
  29. There should be a provision of proper electricity in the pet shop. All electrical installations and appliances must be maintained in a safe condition.
  30. Proper sewage and waste disposal arrangements should be provided in the pet shop to maintain cleanliness in the pet shop. Animal and food wastes, used bedding, debris and any other organic wastes shall be removed from the pet animal enclosures daily.
  31. All pet shops and holding premises shall be free from infestation of vermin, insects or other pests.
  32. All pet food intended for in-house use must be kept in waterproof, closed containers at a height of 4 inches above the floor. Food contaminated by rodents must be discarded.
  33. Aviaries must be cleaned daily to prevent buildup of bird wastes and uneaten food.



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34. If the pet shop owner intends to provide grooming services, the same shall be mentioned by him while submitting the application for the grant of license. The grooming area shall be physically separated from primary animal enclosures and animal food storage areas.
35. All pet shop owners shall maintain a record of all pet animal purchases. Minimum information required shall include transaction date; name, address and phone number of the supplier; number of animals received; animal breed or species; and bird band number, if applicable. In the case of exotic animals/birds, import licences have to be obtained and displayed prominently on the shop premises, listing which birds have been given permission. All required sales and purchase records shall be made available to any inspector authorized by the local body / rep of AWBI.
36. Animals/birds that die at pet shop should be timely and properly disposed off.
37. Any zoonotic/contagious/infectious disease should be immediately reported by the pet shop owner to the Govt. Veterinary Officer/Civic body.
38. The maximum numbers of animals to be stocked on the premises will be governed by the accommodation available, as stated in the stocking density lists detailed in the schedules attached to these licence conditions. These stocking densities are provided for guidance and recommendation only. No other animals, other than those specified in the licence, may be stocked without prior written approval from the licensing authority.
39. Pet shop owners shall ensure deployment of sufficient number of employees at the pet shop to take care of animals properly.
40. All animals in the pet shop premises must be attended by the pet shop staff daily at regular intervals, appropriate to the species. A system of recording observation should be maintained in registers.
41. Pet care leaflets or other similar written instructions must be made available to customers free of charge at the time of purchase. Purchasers must be given proper advice on the care of the animal and, where necessary, on the maintenance and use of any accessories.
42. Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm or unnecessary discomfort.
43. Pet shop owner/owner of dog/purchaser of dog shall get dog/pup registered with local body prior or after sale of the dog/pup.
44. No pups/dogs shall be sold with mutilated ears and/or tails.
45. No pet shop owner may sell any dog or cat that is under eight weeks of age.
46. Pet shop owners must ensure that before sale the pup/kitten is weaned and is properly vaccinated.
47. No baby birds are allowed for sale. For advice on the age of stock, it is advisable to contact the Veterinary Doctor.
48. All animals placed in the same enclosure must be of the same species and age group. Puppies and kittens cannot be placed with adult animals other than their mothers.

**5. Licence for Pet Shops:**

- (a) A pet shop owner is required to obtain a licence to open a pet shop in India from the local body / authority. The application for the licence has to be made in the form as per Schedule 'B'.



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- (b) The applicant must familiarize himself / herself with these Rules and the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, C. I. T. I. E. S. Rules before applying for a licence.
- (c) The Pet shop owner shall also apply to the local body and Board for an authorisation for selling animals according to law. Without the authorisation of the Board, though he may have a licence from the municipality, he cannot deal in animals.
- (d) After the application is submitted, the applicant will have to undergo a test to assess the knowledge of the applicant on animal protection laws in India.
- (e) This test is mandatory and the licence will not be issued without the applicant passing this test at the time of inspection by rep of AWBI and local body.
- (f) The licence will not be transferred to another individual and will have to be renewed every year.

**Licence fee:**

Local body shall fix a scale of fee to be paid in respect of premises licensed under above sub section. Accordingly, an amount of Rs.5,000/- may be charged from the pet shop owners as the license fee. The fee for the renewal for the license shall Rs.2,000/- per annum.

**Penalty against the defaulters:**

If any pet shop owner is found running his business without licence or in contravention of terms & conditions laid down in the policy, action will be taken for sealing of the premises/pet shop and confiscation of animals/birds along with fine upto Rs.5000/-.

The application form for grant of license for pet shop is annexed herewith **Annexure 'B'**.

**6. Approval for the Pet Shop premises:**

- (a) The pet shop will be jointly inspected by an inspector appointed by local body and the Board before operations start to ensure that the applicant for a pet shop has the necessary infrastructure and means to provide for a clean and comfortable stay for the animals in the pet shop. The report of the inspector will be attached to the application for the licence.
- (b) If required standards are not met, the modifications needed will be submitted to the local body and Board and the applicant in writing by the inspector.



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- (c) Such modifications will have to be carried out within the time limit mentioned in the report, failing which the licence will not be granted or if already granted, it shall be revoked.

**7. Applicability of Laws:**

- (a) Every pet shop will be governed by the provisions of this Act as well as those of the Municipal Corporation / local body Act of the relevant city, The Police Act of the relevant State, Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Transport of Animals Rules, 1978, Prohibition of Trade in birds, and all other relevant laws in that state including C.I.T.I.E.S. Rules.
- (b) Any violation of any of these laws will result in the licence being cancelled apart from the penalty prescribed under the relevant laws being imposed.

**8. Maintenance of Records:**

- (a) Each pet shop owner will have to record the particulars of the animal suppliers in the books of records. These particulars will include name, licence details, address, types and number of animals dealt in.
- (b) If a pet shop owner is found to be carrying on the business illegally or in contravention of any of the above mentioned laws/rules action shall be taken against both the supplier as well as the pet shop owner.
- (c) The pet shop owner also has to maintain a register of customers buying animals from him with details such as name, address, telephone number, office address, etc. The particulars shall be correctly entered after verifying the identity of the purchaser and the proof of residence.
- (d) No animal shall be sold to a person under the age of 18.
- (e) All the registers/documents/vouchers shall be maintained properly by the pet shops without any scribbling or any other discrepancies on them. They shall be available for scrutiny by any police officer above the rank of a constable or any officer appointed by the state government or the central government in this behalf or any officer appointed by the local body or Animal Welfare Board of India.

**9. Minimum standards to be ensured for animals in Pet Shops**

1. A pet shop shall be established in a sound and safe building or structure away from sound, dust or air pollution. Ventilation, light and water shall be adequate to the need of the species being lodged and sold therein. The shop shall possess enough space and proper infrastructure for comfortably accommodating the pet or any other animals being retained in the shop for the time being.
2. The pet shop shall not be established in the vicinity of a butcher shop or a work place which emits dust, fumes, waste or sound pollution.
3. The ambient temperature of animal dwelling area shall remain between 25 and 30 degree centigrade and humidity below 50% (The ideal humidity in winter should be between 30% and 40% and between 60% and 80% in the summer; may vary slightly in different species). There shall be a dry and wet thermometer indicating the ambient temperature and humidity. These instruments shall be tested daily for its function and the ambient temperature and humidity recorded twice daily, one such reading being taken at mid noon (*ie.* between 12.00 noon and 1.00PM).



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4. The shop shall preferably have large windows on two sides (cross ventilation) with proper fly proofing and sun shades or awnings to prevent direct sunlight or sleet during rain. If the roof is flat (concrete) with no rooms above, false ceiling shall be provided.
5. If the shop is walled on all three sides it shall have a low noise exhaust fan with a good number of ceiling fans that maintain ambient temperature as prescribed. In case the temperature and humidity can not be maintained as prescribed still, an air conditioner/ cooler may have to be provided depending on the region.
6. The cages or enclosures for animals shall be large enough for occupants to stand with head raised, turn and stretch full length, while resting. For all birds (except water birds) there shall be perching rods where they can fly and perch. Water birds stationed for more than two days shall be provided water troughs to wallow.
7. The floor shall preferably not be of meshed wire except for rodent or bird cages, provided that a waste tray shall be fitted beneath it. Nesting pots with straw or grass beds shall be in place where needed. Feeding hoppers shall used. Plates when used for feeding shall be cleaned every daily. Water pots shall be filled regularly with clean potable water. Greens leaves fed to animals shall be hung to allow animals to leap and grab them. In the case of dogs, cats or their young ones the left over food shall be retrieved 15-30 minutes after feeding is over and plates cleaned.
8. Only compatible animals shall be caged/ housed together.
9. Sick animals or birds shall be segregated as quickly as possible and shall not be displayed or sold. Birds showing infirmity or pigeons/ doves tossing head or suspected of pigeon malaria shall be immediately segregated and treated.
10. The shop shall be airy during night, but be safe from pests and predators.

**NOTE:** Infrastructure & Housing norms General Care of Animals in pet shops (Animal Facilities), Veterinary Care, Quarantine/ isolation, disposal of dead animals etc. shall be ideal. In case of doubt, disparity or dispute the norms prescribed in CPCSEA rules shall normally be taken as standard. Wherever difficulty is felt it shall be brought to the notice of the board for a review and appropriate decision, remedy or correction.

**10. Violations:** AWBI or local welfare authority may on receipt of complaint or on its own inspection(s) verify violation of rules if any,

- 1) If any hardship or suffering is detected in animal inmates of a shop, either by way of symptoms of distress, behaviour variations or of pain, the shop keeper shall be asked to take steps to remove or remedy the cause, offending situation, object or action within a time as is suggested by the inspector or is reasonably agreed to in writing by the shop keeper, on a prescribed form (ie. Schedule 3).
- 2) If a shop keeper does not comply with the instruction or does not take remedial action, action shall be taken by the local welfare authority under the supervision and guidance of registered veterinary practioner (RVP) to relieve, reduce or remove the suffering. Incidental expenditure (towards expense listed in section29 of the Indian veterinary council Act, 1984) if any, shall be borne by the shop keeper.
- 3) If by any chance the shop keeper refuses to pay for the expenses involved for remedial action and/ or continue to do business, the local welfare authority may seize the suffering animal(s) or all the animals of the shop



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- as is advised by the RVP with technical reasons thereof and hand them over to a temporary/ regular shelter.
- 4) Measures for immediate relief for animal: Shelters shall be organized by block panchayat or local administration ((by whatever name called as in the administrative set up of the state) at block level for housing the seized animals in reasonable comfort. After providing relief, they shall arrange the sale of animals to interested owners. Helpers in the shelters shall be given proper training in catching, handling, restraining, washing & grooming (where indicated) of animals.
  - 5) Where the district authorities have not complied with provision of rule 4 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Establishment and Regulation of Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Rules, 2001, the board would peruse the matter with the concerned. Pending establishment of regular infirmaries, shelters that are established or being established with funds from board shall be immediately directed to take up the job of infirmaries.
  - 6) The trained volunteers shall be equipped with protective gadgets and restraining devices, carry boxes etc. This process would solve the problem of lack of personnel to respond to any call for relief, like sighting of an animal in distress, animals entrapped in buildings, trees or man holes, intrusion of rabid dog in a locality, dog(s) attacking people at large etc.
  - 7) If a shop keeper is found to be carrying on business without license, certificate renewal, record or in contravention to rule(s),-
    - a) action shall be initiated against the shop and a case of cruelty filed against her/him.
    - b) In case of trade of any animal against law both the shop owner, the concerned shall be informed and supplier as well as buyer shall be held responsible.
- (b) No animal shall be sold to a person under the age of 18.

### 11. Pet Care Advice

1. Normally every shop keeper shall endeavor to provide leaflets or other similar written instructions on pet care to customers free of charge, at the time of sale.
2. Purchasers must be given proper advice on the care of the animal and where necessary, on the maintenance and use of cages, feeders or accessories (if any).

### 12. Rules for persons buying and transporting a pet: [the following text shall also be prominently displayed in the shop.]

Every person who buys any animal/ bird from a pet shop shall be responsible to get informed of the local law for licensing of pets through municipal authorities. They shall get license within 15 days from the date of purchase of animals. Alternately the shop can arrange to procure a license on payment of actual expenses involved, including charges incurred for mandatory immunization. TRANSPORTATION of animals by road and in vehicles shall be as per rules prescribed under prevention of cruelty act, 2001



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**13 Accommodation, Infrastructure & Housing:**

- (a) A pet shop shall be housed in a structurally sound building with adequate arrangements for water. The building shall be kept in good condition and timely repair undertaken.
- (b) All surfaces on the inside of the building (i.e., floors, walls, ceiling) in rooms that house animals, treatment areas, food storage, etc must be made of material that can be washed, cleaned, disinfected or scrubbed and are not toxic to animals.
- (c) The pet shop shall be as far as possible away from air and noise pollution. It shall also be away from traffic and vehicular pollution.
- (d) The facility must provide a washroom with soap for staff and visitors. Suitable drains or a way to quickly eliminate water when cleaning (or in case of flooding) shall be provided where animals are housed (both inside and outside the premises).
- (e) There shall be no pools of water or any garbage dump near the pet shop. The area shall be free from noxious smells, eg. of toilets, constantly lingering in the air near the shop.
- (f) Heating and Cooling: The temperature where animals are housed shall be comfortable (this may vary from animal to animal and breed to breed) and this control shall provide for shade from the sun and shelter from extreme weather conditions.
- (g) Housing for pet animals shall be sufficiently heated or cooled when necessary to protect animals from temperature extremes and to provide for their health. The ambient temperature shall be consistent with the requirements of the specific pet animals as given in Table \_\_\_\_.
- (h) Temperatures will be kept between 18 and 23 degrees Celsius through the use of heating and cooling systems.
- (i) Ample lighting is necessary so as to easily examine all areas of the building and animal enclosures, allow for adequate cleaning, and allow for close monitoring of animals' health.
- (j) Ventilation: The structure shall be properly ventilated to minimize noxious odours and moisture.
- (k) All facilities housing pet animals shall be adequately ventilated with fresh or filtered air to minimize drafts, odors and moisture condensation and to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. Ventilation and adequate circulation shall be provided by either natural or mechanical means. An installed low-noise exhaust system must be used at all licensed facilities.
- (l) The shops will be opened only after 9.00 a.m. (or after sunrise) and will be closed by 7.00 p.m (or by sunset) and no electrical or other lights will be kept on during the night so as to provide proper rest to the animals.
- (m) As soon as the shops are opened in the morning, cages shall be cleaned and fresh food and water shall be provided to the animals.
- (n) Cage/Kennel Floors: Primary enclosures for animals must be waterproof, structurally sound and have no protrusions that could injure animals.
- (o) The floor of the primary enclosure shall be constructed to prevent injury to the animals' feet and legs. Enclosures for pet animals may have wire flooring provided that the wire is of adequate gauge to prevent sagging under the animals' weight and the mesh is small enough to prevent their feet/nails/claws from passing through.
- (p) These enclosures shall be large enough for animals to stand up, lie down, turn around, and stretch to full size.



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- (q) Schedule II gives general requirements for the most commonly traded species found in pet shops.
- (r) All cages shall be equipped with areas of proper flooring (not wire mesh) where animals can sit / rest in the cage. Animals requiring bedding material shall be provided such bedding material, which shall be kept sterile and clean all the time. No feed shall be mixed in the bedding. If feed does get mixed, the bedding shall be changed immediately.
- (s) Pet shops may not breed animals.
- (t) All animals kept in the same enclosure shall be of the same species and age group and gender to prevent mating and breeding and to prevent bullying and fighting also.
- (u) Puppies and kittens shall not be housed with adult animals. Sick or aggressive animals shall be kept separately.
- (v) No licenced facility shall house or sell pregnant animals or mother animals caring for unweaned young.
- (w) These should be considered as the minimum standards and may be insufficient in certain other facilities or situations. Anything less than these standards will be considered a violation of the law and will attract legal action against the owner. This may also result in the licence being cancelled.
- (x) Isolation Area: All pet animal shops must have an isolation area where animals who are infected with a contagious disease or are suspected of being infected can be segregated from the rest of the pet animal population.

**Minimum Space Requirements:**

**1. CAGE BIRDS**

- (a) The cage must be large enough to provide full body extension without contact with the confines. The cage must be wide enough to accommodate completely stretched wings.
- (b) Cages shall be maintained in good repair and constructed of metal or other water resistant material which can be cleaned and sanitized.
- (c) A single well-placed perch may be adequate where the bird can stand completely upright on the perch without having the head contact the ceiling of the cage and at the same time not having the tail contact the floor or grate. For those species, such as Finches, Canaries, etc. that prefer flying or jumping to climbing, two perches, on at each end of the cage, must be provided. Perches must be strategically placed to prevent droppings from contaminating other birds and the bird's food and water and to also prevent the bird's tail from coming into contact with the food water.
- (d) Birds that live in social groupings and are housed as such must have wooden nesting boxes constructed within the cage in order to afford them privacy. They must also have the ability to fly within the enclosed area.
- (e) Minimum space requirements for multiple birds housed temporarily depends on the overall length of the birds as measured from the tip of the tail to the top of the head. Cage measurements are based on the actual living space and do not include T-stands or perches attached to the outside of the cage or the space below the grate.
- (f) All cages accessories (Ladders, toys, perches etc.) made of unsealed wood shall be cleaned daily and replaced once a week to maintain sanitary conditions.



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<b>FLOOR AREA</b> (sq cm)			
	<b>Length (cm)</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Each Additional</b>
<i>Budgerigar</i>	20-25	1300	300
Parrot	up to 30	1600	550
	30-35	2500	1250
	Over 35	3000	1500
Canary	20-23	1300	500
Dove and Pigeon	up to 22 <sup>1/2</sup>	900	500
	Over 22 <sup>1/2</sup>	2500	1250

## 2. CATS

### Number of Animals

Area(sq. ft.)	Small (<2 Ibs)	Medium (2-5 Ibs)	Large (6-10 Ibs)
12	3	2	1
24	6	3	2
48	10	4	3

- (a) The floor of the open enclosure/pen must have a solid surface and should be large enough to enable all the occupants to exercise free movement and play. Elevated resting surfaces must be provided for cats. Matting must be provided. Soft clean play toys must be provided within the enclosure.
- (b) The space taken by the litter box shall not be included in the calculation of the total area. (For example, a requirement of 12 sq. ft. would be 2 sq. ft. plus the space taken by the litter box.)
- (c) The height of the enclosures/pen shall be such that the cat cannot escape.
- (d) Cats/kittens shall be kept in a room which is not shared by other animal species.

## 3. DOGS

### Number of Animals

Area(sq. ft.)	Small (1-10 Ibs)	Medium (11-20 Ibs)	Large (21-30 Ibs)
24	3	2	1
48	6	3	2
56	10	4	3

- (a) The floor of the open enclosure/pen must have a solid surface and should be large enough to enable all occupants to exercise free movement and play.
- (b) The height of the enclosure/pen shall be such that the dog/pup cannot escape.
- (c) Dogs/pups shall be kept in a room which is not shared by other animal species.
- (d) Minimum space requirements for dogs weighing over 30 pounds will be determined on an individual basis.



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- (e) The licensee shall have a plan on file providing for the exercise of puppies that are over 16 weeks of age or over 12 inches in height at the shoulders.

**4. RABBITS**

**Number of Animals**

Area(sq. ft.)	Small (<2 Ibs)	Medium (2-4 Ibs)	Large (5-12 Ibs)
2.5	4	2	0
4	8	4	1
6	12	6	2

- (a) The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 48 inches.  
 (b) The floor of the rabbit's primary enclosure shall never be wire mesh, steel or shavings. The floor of the enclosure (as opposed) should be solid surface like tile board, good quality linoleum, untreated straw mats or acrylic non slip surface and have different levels to rest to provide more room to exercise and play. Arrangement must be made for digging, chewing and playing and a private space with a separate litter box, food and water boxes.

**5. GUINEA PIGS**

**Number of Animals**

Area(sq. in.)	Small (<350 gms)	Medium (351-700 gms)	Large (>701 gms)
288*	4	3	2
360*	6	4	3
432*	7	5	4
624*	10	7	6

- (a) The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 36 inches.  
 (b) Guinea pigs shall only be housed in primary enclosures with a solid floor. The rules that apply to rabbits apply here.

**6. HAMSTERS**

**Size Weight (gms)**

**Small <60**

**Medium 61-100**

**Large >100**

- (a) The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 36 inches for dwarf species. For all other animals, the minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 48 inches.  
 (b) Hamsters and gerbils shall only be housed in primary enclosures with a solid floor. The rules that apply to rabbits apply here.

**7. RATS**

**Number of Animals**

Area(sq. in.)	Small (<100gms)	Medium (101-300gms)	Large (>301gms)
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200*	8	6	4
288*	12	9	6
360*	15	12	8
432*	18	14	10
624*	24	18	12

- (a) The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 36 inches. The animals shall be able to reach food and water.  
(b) Rats shall only be housed in primary enclosures with a solid floor. Minimum space requirements for rats over 500 grams will be determined on an individual basis.

**8. MICE**

**Number of Animals**

<b>Area(sq. in.)</b>	<b>Small (&lt;15ms)</b>	<b>Medium (16-15gms)</b>	<b>Large (&gt;25gms)</b>
200*	25	20	14
288*	30	38	24
360*	50	44	34
432*	70	55	40
624*	100	70	60

- (a) The minimum height of the primary enclosure shall be 24 inches.  
(b) Mice shall only be housed in a primary enclosure with a solid floor.

**14. General Care of Animals**

All licensees shall ensure that:

- i. Sufficient fresh food of a type consistent with the dietary requirements and age of the species is offered to each animal daily.
- ii. Sufficient fresh and clean water is available to each animal at all times;
- iii. Bowls, dishes and other containers used for the feeding and watering of animals are cleaned daily or more often if necessary to maintain them free from contamination of excrement or urine;
- iv. The licensee or agent is present for general care and maintenance of the animals at least once daily.
- v. If animals are group housed, they are maintained in compatible groups without overcrowding.
- vi. No female dog, cat or rabbit in season is maintained in a cage, run, pen or other enclosure with any male dog, cat or rabbit.
- vii. Food and water containers for birds are designed to permit easy access to the contents. These containers shall be either designed or



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located within the cage in a manner that serves to minimize their contamination from excrement.

- viii. The animals are kept clean and dry unless species-specific requirements dictate an aquatic or semiaquatic environment. Animals that fall within the latter classification shall be maintained in an environment that contains aquatic features. Each feature shall be of sufficient size and space to permit the animal the option of submerging or soaking in clean water.

**15. Animal Facilities**

Any area where an animal is housed or maintained shall be:

- (a) Cleaned and disinfected daily or more often if necessary to maintain a sanitary condition;
- (b) Of adequate size and space to permit:
  - i. The animal(s) housed therein to stand, sit, lie down, turn around and make other normal postural adjustments without obstruction, interference or impediment by the presence of food and water bowls or cage mates; and
  - ii. The bird(s) within to fly, hop and otherwise move about, individually spread their wings and simultaneously and freely from obstruction perch in a normal position;
- (c) Appropriate to provide the ambient temperature required for the animal considering its species, health, and age;
- (d) Constructed in accordance with the following provisions:
  - 1. Any wall shall be impervious to moisture from the floor to a height of four feet;
  - 2. The floor shall be impervious to moisture;
  - 3. Any material used shall be resistant to rusting;
  - 4. If the cage or enclosure has a wire floor, then the wire used shall be of adequate gauge to prevent sagging or injury to an animal's feet, and the mesh shall be small enough to prevent an animal's feet from falling through the bottom; and
- (e) Designed to permit the unimpeded access of the animal(s) to clean, fresh food and water.

**16. Veterinary Care:**



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- (a) All licensed facilities shall employ or contract registered veterinary doctor who shall provide routine veterinary care including vaccinations, dewormings, internal and external parasite prevention and treatments, and general examinations. Such doctors shall also provide emergency medical care as needed to all animals housed at the licenced facility. Emergency contact information for the doctor shall be posted conspicuously in all licensed stores to allow employees and customers both the ability to contact the doctor with concerns about the health of animals confined at the facility.
- (b) The veterinarian's name and address shall be mentioned in the application form and the licence issuing office and the Board shall be notified of any change in the same.
- (c) Every animal shall be checked daily for sickness or injury by staff. Any animals found to be ill or injured shall be reported immediately to the facility's veterinarian. Routine veterinary care shall be provided by the employed or contracted veterinarian on a fortnightly basis at the very least.
- (d) Every pet shop shall have a written veterinary plan, approved and signed by the employed or contracted veterinarian for the store to prevent disease and to ensure that sick and/or injured animals receive immediate veterinary attention.
- (e) All animals delivered after sale from the pet shop shall be accompanied with a health certificate from the shop veterinarian, which will bear particulars of the animal – history of vaccination/s, any ailments, subsequent treatment, etc.
- (f) Every animal shall have been examined physically by the veterinarian before issuing a certificate.
- (g) The certificate will be viewed as proof that the animal sold was in good health and condition at the time of the sale.
- (h) Any false certificate issued by a veterinarian will attract legal action and cancellation of his licence as well as the licence provided by the government to the pet shop owner.

**Quarantine/Isolation Rooms.**

All licensees shall:

- (a) Provide a room to be used for the purposes of quarantining sick or diseased animals or isolating newly acquired dogs and cats as required
- (b) Ensure that quarantined sick or diseased animals and isolated newly acquired dogs and cats are not maintained in the quarantine/isolation room simultaneously;
- (c) Ensure that quarantine/isolation rooms are:
  1. Physically separated from rooms used to maintain other animals;
  2. Completely enclosed by walls that extend from floor to ceiling;
  3. Equipped with an exhaust fan that serves to efficiently remove air from the room to an area outside the building;



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4. Equipped with a sink having hot and cold running water used exclusively for the cleaning and maintenance of the quarantine/isolation room, all equipment and utensils used therein, and animals housed within the room;
  5. Not used to house or maintain other animals;
  6. Thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after quarantined or isolated animals have been removed and prior to the placement of additional animals into the room; and
  7. Not used for storage of food, containers, bowls, dishes, cages or other equipment that come in contact with other animals;
- (d) Ensure that any person who feeds, waters, cleans, treats or handles quarantined or isolated animals or disease-contaminated equipment or material shall, before handling healthy animals or uncontaminated equipment or materials, thoroughly wash their hands with a disinfectant detergent. Contaminated outerwear shall be removed prior to handling healthy animals or uncontaminated equipment or material; and
- (e) Ensure that any employee restroom or public access area is not used as a quarantine\isolation room.

**17. Disposal of dead animals:**

- (a) Every pet shop shall have a pre-approved arrangement to dispose of the carcasses of animals who have died at the pet shop.
- (b) Dead animals shall be removed at the earliest from the sight of other animals.
- (c) A separate register shall be maintained recording the cause of death, number of animals who have died, date, day and time of deaths and the details of disposal of the carcasses. The register shall be available for scrutiny by any police officer above the rank of a constable or any officer appointed by the state government or the central government in this behalf or any officer appointed by local body or the Animal Welfare Board of India.

**18. Rules for persons buying a pet:**

- (a) Every person who buys any animal/bird from any pet shop shall apply for a pet licence from the local municipal authorities within 15 days from the date of purchase of animals.
- (b) A different licence will be required for each species of pet.
- (c) Such licences shall be renewed every 12 months from the date of issue.
- (d) A buyer of a pet animal/bird shall report the death of such animal/bird to the municipal authorities immediately, including a veterinarian's statement describing the cause of death. The licence for that particular animal will stand cancelled on the death of the animal.
- (e) Inspectors appointed by the Board shall be allowed to visit the household of buyers of pets to inspect the wellbeing of the pets.
- (f) Every buyer of a pet animal/bird shall compulsorily acquaint himself with all necessary details about proper maintenance and care of the animals



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- purchased by him including feeding schedule, type of food to be given, health check up, exercise schedule, sleeping habits, minimum area to be provided, mating season and arrangements for the same.
- (g) No pet shop shall release to a consumer a dog or cat that has not been sterilized by a licensed veterinarian; provided, however, that such requirement shall not apply to a consumer who presents to the pet shop a letter from such consumer's licensed veterinarian, dated within the immediately preceding ten days, stating the reason(s) why, in the opinion of such veterinarian, such dog or cat should not be sterilized until a later specific date, not to exceed four months following the date of such letter. Such letter shall state that such veterinarian will cause such dog or cat to be sterilized at the request of such consumer on or before such later specified date. Such veterinarian shall also provide to the pet shop a certificate, in such form and manner as determined by rules promulgated by the department, stating the date on which such sterilization was performed. Any consumer who provides a pet shop with a letter with respect to a later sterilization of a dog or cat must ensure that such animal is sterilized by the date indicated in the letter.
- (h) If the pets give birth to an offspring/s, all details of the young shall be informed to the local municipal authorities and to the Board.

**Note:**

This set of rules also applies to a breeder and supplier of animals.



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**Schedule - A:**

**Affidavit by the pet shop owner**

I ..... I have read the rule my self/ was read out to me and understand that as per law a pet shop can be inspected twice a year and/ or upon any complaint. I hereby consent to any inspection(s) by inspectors

I have read and is conversant with the provisions of the ACT, the Rules, the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) rules, CPCSEA rules and shall not buy procure, maintain, or sell any animal, the trade of which is against law.

I understand that by signing this document, I undertake to abide by the rule in letter and spirit and shall provide all animals in my custody adequate humane care as prescribed in the Rules. I understand and agree that in order to verify my compliance, inspectors may contact me and request in writing clarifications ask for medical records from me or my veterinarian, on adequacy of veterinary care and treatment given to the animals which were in my custody during the course of inspection.

I understand that a willful violation of any provision of the Act or of any rule(s) prescribed therein, may lead to actions listed in rule 7 of the rules under the title “violations” including seizing of animals in my custody, their sale or transfer, the suspension or cancellation of my certificate and/or imposition of fines.

The information contained in my application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of shop keeper or Authorized Representative

Date



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**Schedule 'B'**

**To**

- 1. Municipal Corporation / Local Body**
- 2. Animal Welfare Board of India**

**Application form for grant of licence for Pet Shop**

Sir,

I/We .....R/o.....  
hereby apply for a licence to keep a Pet Shop at .....in accordance with the particulars in the attached format.

1	Name and address of the premises to be licensed	
2	Full name and address of proposed pet shop owner	
3	Contact telephone number	
4	Details of accommodation / infrastructure in which pet shop will e started.	
5	Working hours	
6	Normal times of attendance at the premises when premises are closed	
7	Heating / cooling arrangements	
8	Ventilation arrangements	
9	Lighting arrangements (natural and article)	
10	Arrangements for food storage	



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11	Arrangements for disposal of animal excreta and dead animals	
12	Arrangements for Vet cover	

**Details of pet animals proposed to be kept in the Pet Shop**

TYPE OF ANIMAL	PROPOSED NUMBERS	DETAILS OF ACCOMODATION / CAGES	AGE AT WHICH PROPOSED TO BE SOLD
Dogs			
Cats			
Rabbits			
Guinea Pigs			
Hamsters			
Rats			
Mice			
Budgerigar			
Parrot			
Canary			
Dove and Pigeon			
Any other Species (Please Specify)			

I/we enclosed the requisite fee.

I/we declare that the information given in this application is true.

Signed by the applicant (s)

..... Dated .....

..... Dated .....