

THE WELFARE & PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

ACT OF SINDH, 2017

SALIENT FEATURES

The said bill has been drafted keeping in mind the international standards of animal welfare and care.

1. The above-mentioned bill has been put up before the provincial cabinet and is on its way to be tabled in the provincial assembly. Once tabled in the assembly the bill will be passed after debate on the same within the house.
2. The said bill has a wider scope, as it refers to issues and offences that the previous law was silent on. The new bill has defined Cruelty, Animal Shelter, Animal Welfare Organization, Animal Hoarder and Torture Breeding which makes the new Bill all-encompassing and more animal friendly.
3. The new bill distinguishes between companion animal, captive animal, domestic animal, stray animal and performing animal. This is to ensure that no animal is abused and effective care is given to the animal as per their needs.
4. The new bill lays down in depth the duty of person(s) in charge on animals and enumerates the criteria for their welfare and protection.
5. The new bill lays down a clear definition of an owner to prevent animal abuse of all kinds.
6. Unlike the old law, under the new bill a board has been formed, by the name of “Animal Welfare & Protection Board of Sindh” to implement and foresee the prevention of animal abuse and work towards their welfare. The said Board has been given adequate powers and clear guidelines have been set out in the new bill for its formation to the area of work.

7. The secretary of the Board will be appointed by the Sindh Government, which will ensure Government participation in protecting animal rights.
8. The Board constituted under the new Bill is going to be proactive and has been assigned the Herculean task of educating people about animal welfare and protection. The Board will also provide financial assistance to animal shelters and animal welfare organizations.
9. The new bill has given the Board powers to make regulations as it deems fit, so as to not get bogged down by the tedious task of legislation.
10. Unlike the old law, the new bill specifies neglect as an offence of cruelty. The idea is unique to this bill. It makes welfare of animals mandatory on their owner/caretaker.
11. For the first time the offence of torture breeding has been enlisted as an offence.
12. Declawing of felines and animals has been declared an offence.
13. Overloading as mentioned in the old law has been replaced by animal hoarding in the new bill.
14. Courts have been given power to convict under the new bill.
15. The new bill has laid down the procedure to conduct experiment in a controlled environment under supervision by the Board, and no cruel or inhumane practices are allowed.
16. Any person who is desirous of exhibiting or experimenting on an animal will first have to register in order to do. The goal is to streamline all the procedures and keep a check on the procedures and welfare of the animals.
17. The new bill has given a police officer power to enter the premises and for examination of animals.
18. The Sindh Government will set up infirmaries, shelter houses in each district and each city in the Province to provide care and treatment to the animals.