

WP.No.11990 of 2021

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 20.05.2021

CORAM:

**THE HON'BLE Dr. JUSTICE ANITA SUMANTH**

AND

**THE HON'BLE Mr. JUSTICE SENTHILKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY**

**WP.No.11990 of 2021**

V.E.Shiva

... Petitioner

vs.

1. The Principal Secretary,  
Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries Department,  
Secretariat,  
Chennai - 600 009.

2. The Director,  
Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,  
No.571, Anna Salai,  
Veterinary Hospital Campus,  
Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035. ... Respondents

WRIT Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying to issue Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to take necessary steps to ensure that the stray Animals are provided with food and water in COVID-19 pandemic.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.M.Natraj

For Respondents : Mr.R.Neelakandan,  
Government Advocate

**ORDER**

*(Order of the Court was made by **Dr.ANITA SUMANTH, J.**)*

This Public Interest Litigation is filed by the Mothers of Animals Welfare Trust, a public registered trust, claiming to be engaged in the protection and welfare of animals. The focus of the Writ Petition is the feeding of stray animals during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, particularly dogs.

2. When the matter came up on 19.05.2021, we adjourned the matter by a day to enable the petitioner as well as Mr.R.Neelakandan, learned Government Advocate, who had accepted notice for the respondent, the Animal Husbandry Department, to suggest measures that may be put in place to address the issue.

3. Today, in addition to hearing the aforesaid parties, we have also heard Mr.Yogeshwaran, learned counsel as well as Mr.Shravan Krishnan, Founder of the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary, said to be engaged in varied animal welfare work, who appeared online. Inputs have also received from the representatives of Blue Cross of India, Chennai. After hearing the parties in extenso, we pass the following order.

4. The COVID -19 pandemic has impacted all sections of society and animals are no exception. In fact, the travails of stray animals, particularly today, remains somewhat understated, often lost in the legitimate attention

being given to other critical issues. It is however vital that the needs of the stray animals are addressed in an organised manner to ensure that that the least distress and dislocation is caused to them in these trying times.

5. While our research tells us that there are pockets in several parts of the State where measures are being taken privately by kind and large hearted individuals and associations to ensure that animals within their areas are cared for, we believe that a focused and concerted effort, driven by the State as well as animal welfare organisations would be more impactful. This is the need of the day.

6. There is a clarion call for people to unite in these times and such unity must extend to the care of stray animals. To this end we constitute a Committee comprising of following persons to deliberate, put in place and execute all necessary measures to ensure the provision of nutrition and care to stray animals, particularly dogs: सत्यमेव जयते

i) Dr.Arunachalam, BVSC., Additional Director (Veterinary Services), Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Nandanam, Chennai.

ii) Mr.Yogeshwaran, Advocate, [REDACTED]

iii) Dr.S.Chinny Krishna, Chairman Emeritus, Blue Cross of India, Chennai [REDACTED]

iv) Mr.Shravan Krishnan, Founder, Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary

7. This Committee will meet on 21.05.2021 in the forenoon to discuss and take forward this project. The minutes of the meeting, along with the action plan shall be made available to the Registry of this Court by end of business on 21.05.2021. Thereafter, a report shall be filed on a weekly basis through Mr.Yogeshwaran to indicate progress in the matter.

8. We make it clear that the work that the respective Committee members and the institutions they are connected with must go on unhindered. We firmly believe that collective action will have an enhanced impact and hence this effort to bring to the table persons representing different institutions including the State, for a common cause. The committee is at liberty to enlist the help of other associations, community feeders and key persons in different areas of the city and beyond, to carry forward their mandate.

9. Individual and Corporate Social Responsibility also demands that resources of like-minded persons and institutions may be made available for this cause. Let the Committee deliberate upon this. Contributions/donations, if any, may be received and acknowledged by the Additional Director (Veterinary Services), Directorate of Animal Husbandry Deputy Director, who is a part of the Committee. Such contributions must be deposited in a dedicated account

earmarked for this project, opened and operated by the Deputy Director in a Nationalised Bank. A statement of receipts and payments will accompany the weekly report to be filed by the committee.

10. The procedures set out in the preceding paragraphs are only to optimize functionality of the committee. Let there be no bureaucratic delays in moving things along. A press release by the Committee setting out the plan of action will ensure that the public are aware of the project being undertaken and may offer assistance where possible.

11. Since the First Bench is dealing with matters relating to and touching upon COVID – 19 pandemic, place this matter before the Hon'ble the Chief Justice's Bench in their next special sitting after obtaining necessary instructions in this regard from the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

सत्यमेव जयते (A.S.M.J.) (S.K.R.J.)  
20.05.2021

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To

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Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries Department,  
Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.

2. The Director,  
Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,  
No.571, Anna Salai,  
Veterinary Hospital Campus,  
Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.

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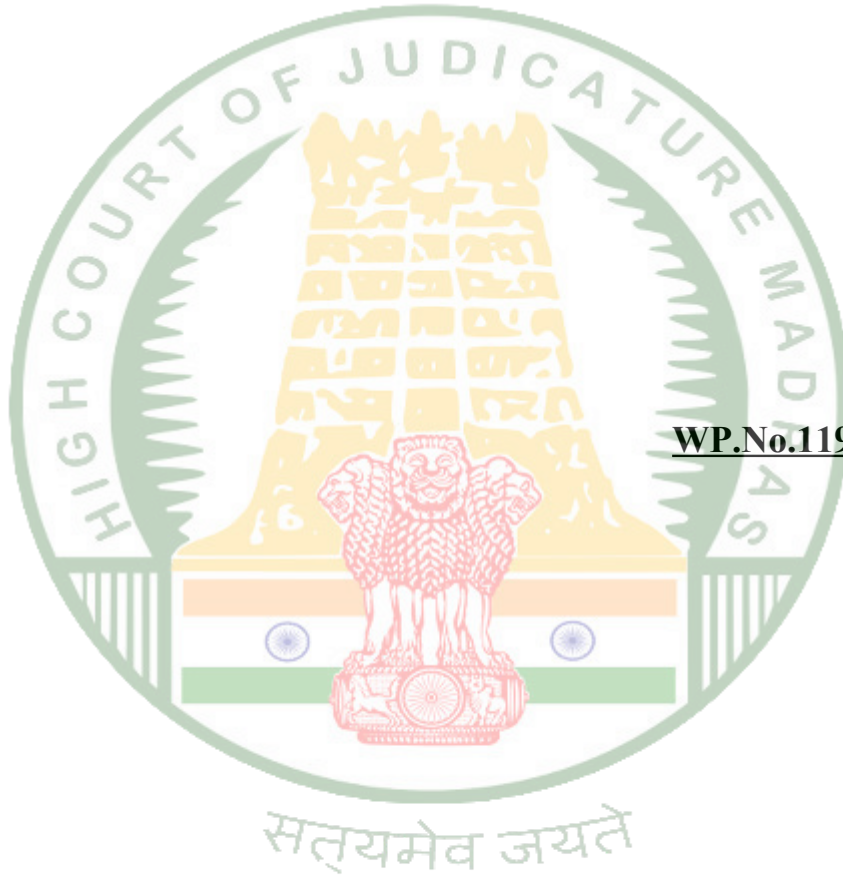
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