

SOP FOR CASTING AND DISPOSAL OF OLD/ WORN OUT/UNFIT ANIMALS OF CAPFs, NSG AND ASSAM RIFLES

Introduction

1. In the Central Armed Police Forces mainly there are two types of animals available that are used for different purposes like loading, riding, games, patrolling, guarding, sniffing and crime detection etc.
2. Animals of all categories whether large or small in size, are having their specific working lifespan, beyond that these animals cannot be used for active duty efficiently as supposed to be.
3. Considering the welfare and ethics of animals, Euthanasia/Mercy Killing of old and worn out force animals of all categories has been ceased.
4. The aim of this SOP is to lay down general guidelines for the management and administration of cast and weed out Central Armed Police Force animals.
5. It is most vital to maintain a younger and healthy profile of all combat elements of AT and K9s. Unhealthy /unfit, old & worn out animal affects the overall operational capability due to their physical and physiological constraints.
6. It is a well-established fact that the life span of working dogs gets reduced than normal lifespan owing to their continuous exposure of strenuous sniffing during routine training and deployment. It is also a fact that increased age considerably diminishes the reflexes and efficiency of all living being. The service dogs also develop senile changes which markedly impair their reflexes, locomotion, sniffing capabilities and general systemic health.
7. Moreover, explosive detection dogs because of sniffing of explosives during training and deployment are prone to various diseases. Their immunity level goes down and are frequently down with various systemic illnesses. Literature on the subject suggests that police and army dogs are more prone to various diseases and have a reduced life span.
8. The average functional life span of working animals as under-
 - Horse - 16 Yrs
 - Pony - 16 Yrs
 - Mule - 16 Yrs
 - Yaks - 12 Yrs
 - Camel - 16 Yrs
 - Dog - 08 Yrs

If the animals are of above specified / mentioned age and are considered unfit for one month active/operational service, they can be recommended for cast and boarding out as old and worn out cases.

9. Classification of Animals for Casting-

(a) Government animals, found unfit for one-month active duty will be cast. Before casting, animals will be classified as-

(i) **Remount Cases.** The animals which do not grow up to the specified standard and all animals that fail to develop suitably will be weeded out. Remount cases will also include those animals which are dangerous or unsafe to ride on account of defective Locomotion. Similarly, K9s, if found unfit for training like excessive aggressiveness, shyness or similar problems and congenital defects etc.

(ii) **Veterinary Cases:** Those animals suffering from :-

(aa) **Incurable Injuries-** This includes veterinary cases, irrespective of animal age, which are under treatment at hospital and are not likely to improve or have suffered permanent damage to health or irreparable health injury or sickness which is not likely to allow them performing their operational active duty, would be considered for cast & boarding out based on recommendation of the treating Veterinarian or competent Veterinary Officer within the organization by the officers of the rank of Second in Command(Chief Veterinary Officer) and above after inspection and technical assessment.

(ab) Incurable injuries and painful conditions like Fractures, Rupture of GI Tract of animals or due to any incurable disease like COPD etc.

(iii) **Worn-out (retired) cases:** Worn out (retired) animals will include animals above specified age for each category, which are unfit for one-month active duty in the field. No Government animal will be cast merely on account of age. Animals will continue to be retained in the service as long as they are fit to undergo one-month active operational service.

10. **Procedure for Casting of Government Animals -** Following procedure would be followed for each category of animal to cast and boarding out of Govt animals: -

(a) **Remount Cases.** BOO of all remount cases (largely at Breeding and Training Centers) will be processed by the Unit/Training Centre/Formation, as the case may be, and forward it to Dte Gen/dealing branch for technical opinion through proper channel and Vet Dte/dealing branch further submit it to the competent authority for taking final disposal orders as per the cost of animals. Opinion from sister CAPF organizations should be taken for those cases where veterinary experts are not available/authorized/posted. The animals, if required, will be

inspected by Veterinary Dte preferably in one lot at an appropriate stage during the course of training.

(b) **Veterinary Cases:-**

(i) Animals will be inspected by the BOO detailed by the immediate controlling HQ /formation. In such cases Vet Officer should be part of BOO. If VO is not available, his opinion should be obtained. In such cases, services of other unit/sister organizations/Central or State VO can be obtained for organizations where veterinary experts are not available/authorized/posted. BOO will prepare board proceedings and forward it for further orders of the competent authority. The procedure to cast such animals will be expedited on an urgent basis to avoid prolonged agony to the animal.

(ii) It is obligatory on the part of veterinary officer of the Force and the organization that we must ensure avoiding any cruelty to these invaluable working animals. Keeping ibid provisions, it is in the interest of the terminally ill animal, suffering from incurable disease condition/sickness that animal is disposed-off by euthanasia to avoid extreme suffering/pain/cruelty to the animal. Further, it is sometimes unavoidable to ensure proper care of the terminally sick animal or animal met with accidents/injuries/fractures/illness, that evacuation to the dependent veterinary hospital is not feasible in view of the prevailing security situation, field condition, inclement weather, natural calamities, adverse circumstances like non availability of veterinary care in the vicinity, that euthanasia is the only option to avoid agony/pain/cruelty to the animal which is not likely to recover as per the written prognosis offered by the veterinary officer. Therefore, euthanasia would be restricted to following conditions only:

(aa) only in exceptional cases when the animal is not likely to recover due to incurable diseases/suffering/terminally sick/painful or similar sick & grave conditions.

(ab) Accident/fracture/rupture of gastrointestinal tract or other internal organs when evacuation or treatment is not likely to help due to incurable / ailing conditions mentioned above.

(ac) The Board of Officers (BOO) to verify on ground above incurable conditions if veterinary officer's opinion is not available due to unavoidable circumstances, the decision/final approval of euthanasia be accorded by the officer not below the rank of DIG of equivalent.

(c) **Worn Out (retired) Cases.** These animals, other than remount cases, certified incapable of further work, will be notified at once by field unit/formation by the BOO convened by immediate controlling HQ / formation.

No Government animal will be cast merely on account of age only. Animals will continue to be retained in the service for as long as they are fit to undergo one-month active operational service.

11. **Procedure for Disposal of Casted Government Animals:-**

(a) **Remount Cases.** Remount cases will be put up for auction to recover expenses incurred on their rearing and training. If no bidder is available for auction, same would be intimated to Veterinary branch/dealing branch at Dte Gen/competent authority. Vet / Dealing branch in such cases will explore the possibility to gift it to Other Central/State Government institute/ Department, NGO or Force personnel.

(b) **Veterinary Cases.** On receipt of orders by unit from competent authority, all such animals will be euthanized only if recommended by the VO forthwith under the orders of the Unit/Formation HOO and rest will be disposed off like worn out cases.

(c) **Worn Out (retired) Cases:-**

(i) No Euthanasia/ Auction will be conducted for such cases.

(ii) Worn out cases will be disposed by relocating them to Old Age Homes (Rehabilitation Centre) created at appropriate places as per force requirement or field conditions by Force Dte.

(iii) For Large animals- Old Age Homes will be located at their respective Coy/ unit AT Base/ Sector/Ftr HQ/ Training Centre or any other location approved by Force Dte. Dogs will be dispatched to Dog Breeding and Training Centers and will be kept centrally. However as per requirement these dogs can be placed at Unit/Sector /Ftr level also. As per requirement competent authority can issue attachment/posting order for extra manpower from AT, Dog squad or GD cadre.

(iv) It is strongly recommended that it defies logic to write off an animal at the original cost, even after an animal completes its working life. After intensive brainstorming the following formula has been arrived to calculate the depreciated value (DV) of animal. The DV would be estimated by the BOO at the time of preparing Board Proceedings and recommendations.

$$DV = PV \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{Age of animal at the time of death/disposal}}{\text{Working lifespan of animal}} \right)$$

DV- Depreciated Value

PV- Purchase Value

Note- Age of animal will be calculated as on year and half year basis on lower side e.g if a dog expires/declared condemned at the age of 3 years and 9 month for calculation of DV, age will be taken as 3.5 yrs.

If value of DV comes in negative, it will be considered as zero.

(v) 70% of the authorized scale rations will be fed to such animals till their last breath.

(vi) Retired dogs will be available for adoption by pet lovers free of cost. Priority will be given to Govt institute/DH/ ADH/ Officers/ unit other person/ force person/NGO and Civilian in the same order or precedence. A Bond will be signed by recipient person adopting the dog that he/she will take care of the dog and final disposal of the animal will be intimated to the force.

(aa) Individual adopting cast animals will certify in writing to the officer conducting the adoption proceedings that he/she will take care of dog properly. If he/she fails to do so said dog will be collected back and no compensation will be admissible to the owner.

(ab) Individual will also give in writing that such dog will not be used in unauthorized activity of its trade work and breeding.

(ac) Every dog will be inspected prior to adoption, by a Veterinary Officer, and if found unfit for adoption on Veterinary grounds, will not be given for adoption and intimation will be conveyed to all concerns.

(ad) Sanction of Competent authority of the respective force shall be obtained in every case of adoption.

(vii) Animal will be taken on Rehabilitation Register for the ration strength only. After death of such animal no COI will be conducted, only intimation will be given to all concerns.

(viii) Retired animals may be utilized for training of personnel about handling animals (AT, Dog Squad, Vet and Paravet Personnel) or any other ethical and justified use.

12. For management of upto 06 such retired dogs-02 DH/ADH can be assigned from existing dog squad/ AT Dett/GD persons. For addition of every 04 dogs or part thereof additional one person will be required.

13. To maintain operation efficiency of the force, new animals can be inducted in the Force against retired/rehabilitated animals immediately on approval of their casting to avoid any shortage for operations.
