भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान बॉम्बे
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

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Policy to Avoid Human-Animal Conflict at IIT Bombay Campus

IIT Bombay is one of the premier Institutes in India and holds the status of 'Institute of Eminence'. It is a residential educational institute and its present population is around 25 000. The institute is committed to provide safe environment to the campus inhabitants.

It has been observed that there is significant number of community dogs & cats (typically referred as stray dogs & cats) in the campus. The Institute has prepared a 'Animal policy' in the year 2022 which needs review and revision to avoid human-animal conflict and to ensure safety of both humans & animals at the institute. Hence, the Institute has prepared a new policy for community dogs and cats.

The new policy on stray animals is as follows:

1. The Public Health Office (PHO) with the help of animal caretakers will arrange for the vaccination & sterilization drives for stray dogs & cats at regular intervals.

2. We appreciate the contributions of the animal caretakers who follow the rules on 'responsible feeding' including feeding only at designated locations and providing appropriate food for the animals. Many feeding points have been identified at nearby locations in consultation with dog caretakers. If a need is felt for more feeding points, the Human-Animal Conflict Committee of the Institute may be contacted.

3. Note that no feeding shall be permitted in Hostels/ Multi-storey residential buildings/ Academic areas/ Administrative buildings as well as parking areas of residential buildings, Y-point shopping area, entry and exit of IIT gates and other high pedestrian traffic areas.

4. It is important that all those who feed community dogs must know and follow the rules to minimize human-animal conflict and for the well-being of the animals. Do not feed wild animals (e.g., Monkey, Langoor, etc).

5. To ensure the above, all residents who feed animals must register through a Google form link which confirms they have read and agree with the rules (family members can be registered by the employee/student who has an IITB SSO ID). The form is available at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSed5oryb9u9_JbMA4lUJ99-FjPHaXo3m827Wg9qFTeb39fqAQ/viewform?usp=sharing and you must save a copy of the confirmation email received after filling the form, and show it to security/PHO/other authorized IITB personnel when asked.

6. Adoption of feral cats and dogs as pets is encouraged, but adopters must be registered and must abide by the rules on campus community safety and campus cleanliness as per the Government rules. Dogs kept as pets shall be on leash at all times when they are in the open or in public areas. The dog owner is responsible for cleaning droppings.

7. 'Responsible feeding' minimizes human-animal conflict. The feeding of animals must be done only at designated locations. The violation will cause a penalty of Rs. 500/-. The fine will be used for the well-being of the animals. The security section will impose the penalty and repeated violations will attract stricter penalty.

8. Students are not allowed to bring and feed stray animals in the hostels, violation of which will result in penalty and disciplinary action.

9. PHO can be approached by the animal caretakers for in-kind help for treatment of ailing animals. As per the prevailing practice, the expenditure will be borne by the feeder(s).

10. The Security section will prevent ingress of animals from outside the campus. PHO will work with Estate Office to close the undesired openings (as much as possible) along the periphery of the campus.

11. The aggressive dog(s) when identified will be appropriately isolated and monitored if they bite any human, or exhibit any other unnatural behaviour, considering the risk of rabies. BMC guidelines will be followed as well.

12. The community dog caretakers will be requested to help in monitoring those that they have been routinely feeding, to suppress their aggression.

13. The Public Health Office & volunteers will conduct awareness drives periodically. These drives should be planned just after the admission process is completed in July and January every year.

14. Cruelty towards animals (stray/wild) violates applicable laws and is unacceptable.

15. Interfering or harassing those who look after and feed community dogs while following the related rules/guidelines, is not permitted. In case of any incidences, the complaint should be raised with the Security section for proper investigation and necessary action.

16. The Security section is empowered to take suitable action against violators and can check the ID card and registration confirmation for caretakers etc.

17. All pet owners should get a pet licence online as per state law and should be adhered to the related norms.

18. The visitors to IIT Bombay can bring animals into the campus only if they have a valid pet license.

19. For understanding the issue & learning how to deal with the community animals, related videos prepared by local authority should be viewed which will be available on PHO website.

The policy comes into force immediately. Any deviations shall be only after due diligence has taken place and suitable guidelines are framed. Earlier guidelines shall be overwritten by these guidelines.

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