

TRAINING PROGRAMME ON ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS, HANDLING 'DHIRIO' INCIDENTS HELD

Panaji: September 10, 2025

A training programme on Animal Protection Laws for handling bull fights 'Dhirio', incidents in North Goa was organized today at the office of the Collector, North Goa Panaji. The purpose of the training programme was to sensitize the stakeholders of the Special Committee/ Task Force constituted to tackle the issue of bull fight cases in the State.

The participants were from the Police Department, Directorate of Panchayats, Directorate of Municipality Administration, Department of Animal Husbandry, and other officials like SDM of various Talukas of Tiswadi, Bardez, Pernem, Sattary, Bicholim who are the stakeholders of the Special Committee/ Task Force. While Legal Advisor and Director of Cruelty Response, of PETA India Adv. Meet Ashar was the resource person.

During the training session Adv. Ashar explained that animal cruelty is a broad term used to describe criminal offences committed against animals. Much like crimes against humans, these offences range in severity, type, cognizability and scale. It is important to note that animals are the victims in these cases, and must be treated as such. There are a number of different legal provisions enacted for the protection of animals in the country, he pointed.

He highlighted the various statutory provisions laid down to protect animals, and the procedure to be followed in such scenarios, for the ease of filing complaints and conducting investigations in cases involving crimes against animals.

Adv. Ashar further highlighted that it is important to note that the definition of 'animal' as per the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is any living creature that is not human. This is a wide definition meant to include all animals within the protection of the law.

Further, the term 'owner' refers not just to the true owner, but also any person having possession or custody of an animal, with or without the consent of the true owner. Therefore, any person who has an animal in their care is legally considered to be the owner, and consequently, responsible for the wellbeing of the animals

The specific legal procedures to be followed when handling cases involving crimes against animals were also discussed.

Additional Collector I, Shri Gurudas S.T. Desai, Deputy Collector, Shri Shivprasad Naik, Dy. Collector and other officials attended the training programme.

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