

ADVISORY TO PET OWNERS REGARDING OCCURRENCE OF CANINE DISTEMPER DISEASE

Panaji : October 30, 2025

The Directorate of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services has informed the general public and pet owners that cases of Canine Distemper, a contagious viral disease affecting dogs has been recently observed in certain areas of the State. The disease is caused by the Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) which primarily affects unvaccinated or inadequately vaccinated dogs.

It has come to notice that the symptoms of Canine Distemper may at times resemble those of Rabies leading to unnecessary panic among the public. The Department clarifies that Canine Distemper is not transmissible to human beings. The disease spreads only from dog to dog through respiratory droplets, saliva, or contact with urine and feces of infected animals.

The Early Signs and Symptoms of the Canine Distemper disease are fever, dullness and loss of appetite; watery or purulent nasal and eye discharge; coughing and laboured breathing; vomiting and diarrhea in some cases and hardening of the nose and paw pads (hence also called "Hard Pad Disease").

As the disease progresses, the virus can affect the nervous system leading to muscle twitching or convulsions, partial or complete paralysis and head tilt, circling movements and seizures.

Vaccination is the most effective preventive measure for this disease. Pet owners are advised to ensure that their dogs receive timely and regular vaccination as per veterinary schedule, avoid contact between healthy dogs and stray or visibly sick dogs, maintain good hygiene, nutrition and stress-free living conditions for pets.

The Department has further informed that there is no specific antiviral treatment for Canine Distemper. However, early veterinary intervention can help manage symptoms and prevent secondary bacterial infections. Recovery is possible in mildly affected dogs but advanced neurological cases often have a poor prognosis.

The Department advises the public not to panic upon noticing dogs showing signs similar to rabies but to report such cases immediately to the nearest Government Veterinary Dispensary or Hospital for proper examination and guidance.

The Directorate continues to monitor the situation closely and urges all pet owners and animal welfare groups to cooperate by ensuring vaccination and timely reporting of suspected cases by making provisions for medication vaccination etc. as such vaccines and medications are not provided free of cost by the State Government.

DI/INF/KM/SAG/UB/SN/2025/860

--

Issued by the Department of Information & Publicity

Department of Information & Publicity,

Government of Goa,

Udyog Bhavan, Third Floor,

Near Azad Maidan,

Panaji – Goa.