

र्ययाञ्चरायज्ञुगायालुरा Royal Government of Bhutan

श-१/१०१८/१८५

02/20/2026

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र्ययाञ्चन त्युगागलुरा Royal Government of Bhutan

PRIME MINISTER

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र्ययाञ्चन त्युगाण्तुरा Royal Government of Bhutan

C-2/2024/248

October 7, 2024

EXECUTIVE ORDER

The Nationwide Accelerated Dog Population Management and Rabies Control Programme (NADPM & RCP) was initiated following the command of His Majesty The King. Inspired by the Royal Command to manage the free-roaming dog population in a professional, humane, and compassionate manner, the programme launched in March 2022 embraced a "whole-of-nation approach" and adopted the Catch, Sterilise, Vaccinate, Withhold and Release (CSVWR) protocol. The 'withhold' component, which ensured animal welfare and compassionate post-surgery care, was a unique feature of our nation's approach. Through this programme, 100% of the free-roaming dogs were sterilised and more than 95% were vaccinated against rabies. Additionally, 32,544 pet dogs were microchipped and registered. In appreciation of the significant progress, all Dzongkhags and Thromdes were presented with certificates of recognition at the end of the programme. Further, an agreement of commitment outlining the key roles and responsibilities to sustain these achievements was signed between the Director of the Department of Livestock and the respective Dzongdas and Thrompons.

In accordance with the agreement, all Dzongdags, Thrompons, and local government entities are reminded of the assigned responsibilities for dog population management and mass anti-rabies dog vaccination in their jurisdictions while sustaining the significant achievements of NADPM & RCP. While the progress achieved thus far is commendable, any failure to maintain vigilance and take proactive measures could undo the advancements made, leading to repopulation of free-roaming dogs and potentially jeopardizing the international recognition Bhutan has gained for its efforts in this area. To sustain the momentum of this important initiative towards becoming a nation free from free-roaming dogs and dog-mediated human rabies, continuous and



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proactive engagement, coordination and collaboration at all levels of the government, along with unwavering support from citizens, have become imperative.

Further, the relevant provisions of the livestock legislation including additional livestock and pet management measures issued vide C-4/2022/1400 dated October 3, 2022 shall be strictly enforced to promote responsible pet ownership, prevent free-roaming dog repopulation, and prevent and control the spread of diseases.

This order shall come into immediate effect.

(Tshering Tobgay)

Copy to:

- 1. Gyalpoi Zimpon, Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon, Tashichhodzong for kind information.
- 2. Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Thimphu for necessary action.
- 3. Minister, Ministry of Health, Thimphu for kind information.
- 4. Cabinet Secretary, Thimphu for kind information.
- 5. Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Thimphu, for kind information.
- 5. Secretary, Ministry of Health, Thimphu, for kind information.