



Animal Law Cell

Faculty of Law , University of Delhi

Cat Census Drive Report

This cat census drive was conducted by members of the Animal Law Cell across locations in North Campus, Delhi University including Umang Bhawan, Arts Faculty, Central Library, and Satyakam Bhawan. The initiative aims to gather data on the campus feline population to support informed welfare measures and encourage compassionate co-existence.



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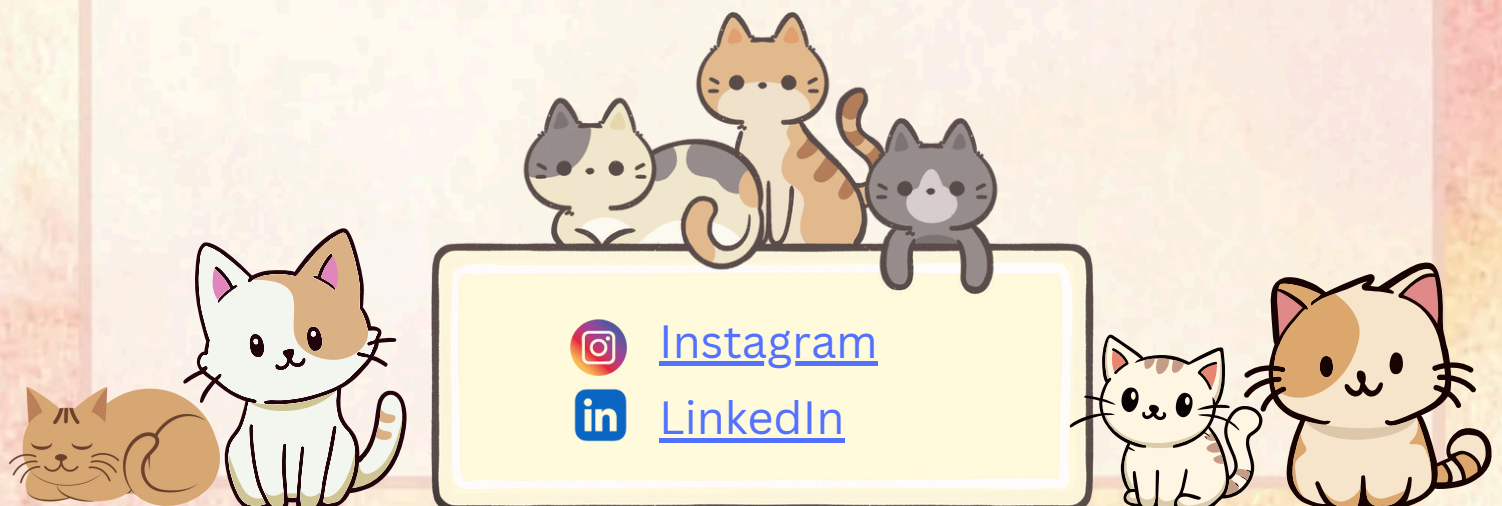
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The **Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023**, notified under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, mark a significant legal step in institutionalizing humane animal population management across India. Notably, while much public discourse has centered on canine welfare, **Rule 19 of the ABC Rules, 2023**, explicitly incorporates **domestic and feral cats** within its regulatory framework.

Rule 19 – Sterilization and Immunization of Cats

“Every local authority shall ensure sterilization and immunization of street cats in its jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of these rules as applicable to dogs.”

This provision clearly places an obligation on local authorities to treat feline welfare at par with that of dogs, mandating sterilization and immunization programs for cats. However, effective implementation of Rule 19 is only possible when reliable data on the feline population is available.





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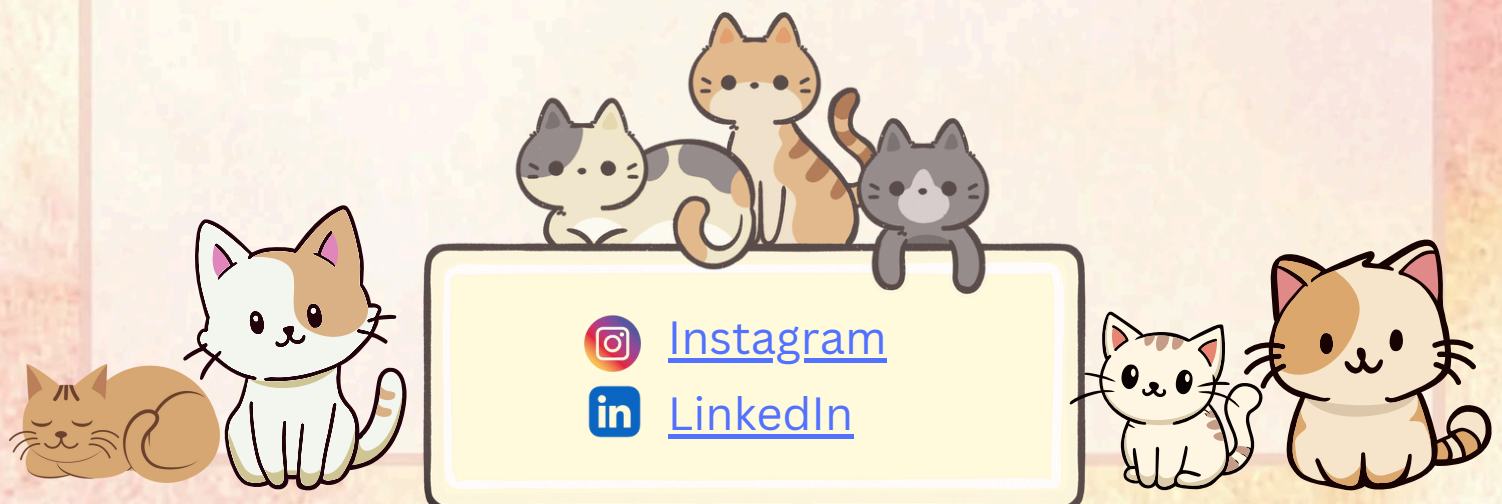
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🔍 Rationale for Cat Census in Light of Rule 19

The cat census, therefore, becomes not only a tool for animal welfare but a legal necessity for operationalizing Rule 19. Its relevance is multidimensional:

- **Legal Compliance:** Enables local authorities and stakeholders to fulfill their statutory duty under Rule 19 by identifying the scope and scale of cat population management required.
- **Program Planning and Resource Allocation:** Population estimates derived from the census help design targeted sterilization, vaccination, and health monitoring interventions, optimizing resource use and minimizing animal suffering.
- **Monitoring and Accountability:** Establishes baseline data for measuring the progress and effectiveness of ABC programs. It also facilitates transparency and accountability in the execution of welfare schemes.
- **Policy Development:** Empirical data generated from the census informs legislative and administrative decision-making, ensuring that feline welfare is not overlooked in broader animal control policies.

The inclusion of cats under **Rule 19 of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023** highlights the growing recognition of feline welfare in law. A well-executed cat census is critical to translating this legal mandate into action, enabling targeted interventions, ensuring statutory compliance, and promoting humane population management.



**CAT CENSUS DRIVE: UMANG BHAWAN, ARTS
FACULTY, CENTRAL LIBRARY AND SATYAKAM
BHAWAN, NORTH CAMPUS, DELHI UNIVERSITY**

[Key: Dorsal=Part of body facing the Sun, Ventral=Part of body facing the ground, basis of assessment for sterilization=Whether tapering end of ear is chipped or not]



1.

Location: Central Library, front side

Features: White body with orange patch towards lower dorsal side, orange head and ears, orange tail with strips towards the lower end

Status: Not sterilized



2.

Location: Near Satyakam Bhawan

Features: White body, patchy orange dorsal side, black patches on head and near left eye

Status: Not sterilized



3.

Location: Near Satyakam Bhawan

Features: Child of cat number 2, striped black dorsal side, white patches near the limbs

Status: Not sterilized



4.

Location: Near Satyakam Bhawan

Features: Child of cat number 2, Black, orange and white patches on dorsal side, orange ears, black patch on head

Status: Not sterilized



5.

Location: Opposite department of Mathematics, behind green cafeteria

Features: White body with a few orange patches on dorsal side, orange ears, head, under-eyes and nose, orange stripes on legs

Status: Not sterilized

Total number of cats counted=5

Total number of sterilized cats=0

Total number of cats not sterilized=5

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