

**THE GAZETTE OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA**

Part II of September 04, 2026

SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 07.09.2026)



**ELIMINATION OF RABIES AND
REGISTRATION OF DOGS**

A

BILL

to provide for the elimination of rabies in Sri Lanka by vaccination of dogs, control of dog population and regulation of breeding of dogs for commercial purposes; for the registration of dogs; for the establishment of the National Rabies Elimination Advisory Committee and the Regional Rabies Elimination Advisory Committees; to repeal the Rabies Ordinance (Chapter 476) and the Dog Registration Ordinance (Chapter 477) and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

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*Elimination of Rabies and
Registration of Dogs*

L.D.-O 68/2025

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RABIES IN SRI LANKA BY VACCINATION OF DOGS, CONTROL OF DOG POPULATION AND REGULATION OF BREEDING OF DOGS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES; FOR THE REGISTRATION OF DOGS; FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL RABIES ELIMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE REGIONAL RABIES ELIMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEES; TO REPEAL THE RABIES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 476) AND THE DOG REGISTRATION ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 477) AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR INCIDENTAL THERETO.

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

1. This Act may be cited as the Elimination of Rabies and Registration of Dogs Act, No. of 2026. Short title

5

PART I

Vaccination against Rabies and registration of dogs

2. It shall be the duty of every local authority to ensure that every dog within the area of its administrative limits is vaccinated against rabies and registered with such local authority annually. Vaccination
and
Registration
of Dogs

10

3. (a) The owner of or any person having under his charge, a dog which is over six weeks of age shall cause such dog to be vaccinated against rabies and registered, annually with the relevant local authority. Owner or
person in
charge of a
dog is liable to
vaccinate and
register the dog

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Registration of Dogs*

(b) Any person who takes responsibility for the welfare of a street dog may comply with the requirement specified in paragraph (a).

4. (1) Vaccination of a dog shall be performed by a
5 veterinary surgeon or under the supervision of a veterinary
surgeon. Issuing the certificate of vaccination

(2) Upon vaccination of a dog which is having an owner or which is under the charge of a person, the relevant local authority, a veterinary surgeon or any other officer authorised
10 in that behalf shall issue a certificate of vaccination against rabies in respect of such dog.

5. (1) Upon vaccination of a dog and the certificate of
vaccination being issued under the provisions of section 4,
the owner or the person having under his charge the dog
15 shall, register such dog with the relevant local authority on payment of a prescribed fee. Certificate of registration etc.

(2) Upon registration of a dog, the local authority shall issue a registration number and a certificate of registration, to the owner of the dog or the person having the dog under
20 his charge.

6. (1) In the case of a stray dog, being a dog which does
not have an owner or a person in charge thereof, the local
authority shall cause such dog to be vaccinated against rabies
and take necessary measures to identify such vaccinated dog
25 for the purpose of preventing unnecessary detention under subsection (2) of section 15. Stray dogs and wild animals

(2) In the case of a wild animal referred to in section 16, oral rabies vaccination shall be used.

7. (1) Every owner of a dog or any other person having
30 under his charge a dog, shall produce the valid certificate of vaccination issued in respect of such dog and the relevant
Non possession of certificate of vaccination and registration

certificate of registration when required to do so by an authorised officer.

(2) Where any owner of a dog or a person having under his charge a dog does not possess a valid certificate of vaccination or a valid certificate of registration issued in respect of such dog when required to be produced by the authorised officer, he shall be granted a period of fourteen days by a notice issued by the authorised officer, to vaccinate such dog against rabies and register such dog with the relevant local authority.

(3) If any such owner or any other person referred to in subsection (2), fails to obtain a certificate of vaccination and a certificate of registration in respect of such dog within fourteen days as required under said subsection due to a reasonable cause acceptable to the authorised officer, he may extend the period for further fourteen days.

(4) If the person to whom a notice is issued under subsection (2) fails to vaccinate or register the dog within the specified time limits he shall be liable to a penalty of two thousand rupees in addition to the registration fee payable under section 5 to the local authority and the local authority shall take steps to vaccinate and register such dog immediately in the Register of Dogs referred to in section 8.

8. For the purposes of this Act, every local authority shall maintain a register in the format as may be prescribed, in order to keep an account of the dog population within such local authority area which shall be called and known as the “Register of Dogs”.

Register of
Dogs

9. (1) Where any dog is transferred by sale or gift or by any other manner to any other person by its owner or the person having the dog under his charge, it shall not be

Transfer of
ownership of
dogs

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necessary for such other person who is the new owner of the dog to register such dog if it is already registered for that year.

- (2) The new owner of such dog shall have in his possession the certificate of registration already issued in respect of the dog which bears an endorsement made with respect to such sale or gift, by the previous owner.

PART II

Control of dog population

- 10 **10.** (1) Every local authority shall cause all stray dogs within such local authority area to be sterilized or castrated, as the case may be. Control
of Dog
Population

- (2) For the purpose of this section, sterilization or castration of dogs shall be performed only by a veterinary surgeon.

(3) Upon sterilization or castration of a dog, the local authority shall take necessary measures to -

- (a) identify such dog for the purpose of preventing unnecessary re-capture and sterilization or castration;
- (b) care for such dog with due attention to the health condition of such dog until it is fully recovered after being so sterilized or castrated; and
- (c) release such dog after recovery to the same place from where it was captured.

(4) The local authority shall maintain written records in relation to such sterilization or castration and all measures taken under subsection (3).

(5) The local authority may obtain the assistance of any Governmental or Non-Governmental organization when conducting sterilization or castration programmes under this section.

5

PART III

Regulation of the breeding centres

11. (1) A person shall not carry on a breeding centre for dogs for the purpose of selling its offspring, except under the authority of a licence granted by the relevant local authority
10 where such breeding centre is located.

Licensing
of breeding
centres

(2) Any person who intends to carry on a breeding centre for dogs within the area of any local authority for the purpose of selling its offspring shall, make an application to obtain licence for such centre, in the prescribed form, to the
15 relevant local authority .

(3) The application shall be accompanied by the prescribed particulars and a prescribed fee.

(4) The local authority shall, upon receipt of an application under subsection (2), conduct an inspection in relation to the
20 proposed breeding centre which shall be carried out by a veterinary surgeon or any officer authorised in that behalf by such local authority.

(5) (a) Where an inspection is carried out under subsection (4), the veterinary surgeon or the officer authorised in that
25 behalf shall submit a report to the local authority with regard to such inspection.

(b) The local authority may upon taking into consideration the report submitted by the veterinary surgeon or the officer

authorised in that behalf, as the case may be, grant a licence or refuse to grant a licence to the applicant and where the application is refused, notify the applicant in writing, of the reasons for the refusal, within a period of not later than
5 fourteen days from the date of making such decision.

(6) The holder of a licence in respect of a breeding centre shall take all necessary measures to -

- 10 (a) provide healthy environment to dogs which are in that centre with adequate food, water, bedding, exercising facilities, lighting, ventilation, temperature, shelter and veterinary care;
- (b) take all precautions to prevent and control the spreading of diseases;
- 15 (c) follow the instructions in relation to breeding and necessary care for such dogs as may be prescribed; and
- (d) protect the dogs in emergencies such as fire and floods.

(7) In case of a death of any dog in any breeding centre,
20 the holder of the licence shall inform forthwith of such death to the relevant local authority.

(8) Any holder of a licence who contravenes the provisions of this section commits an offence and shall on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate be liable to a fine
25 not exceeding ten thousand rupees or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

12. (1) (a) A local authority may authorise in writing any veterinary surgeon or any other officer to inspect any premises of a breeding centre located within the area of its administrative limits for the purpose of preventing the dogs
5 getting infected of contagious diseases.

Inspection of
premises

(b) Any person authorised under this section may, on the production of the document of authority if so required, enter any such premises at all reasonable times of the day and inspect such premises and any dogs or anything found
10 therein, for the purpose specified in paragraph (a).

(2) For the purpose of this section “premises” includes a “place of residence”.

13. (1) A licence granted under section 11 shall be valid for a period of twelve months from the date of issue and may
15 be renewed for a further period of twelve months at a time, upon an application being made in that behalf.

Renewal,
cancellation or
suspension of
a licence

(2) The application for a renewal of a licence shall be in the prescribed form and shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

20 (3) Where the holder of a licence does not apply for a renewal of such licence prior to one month of its date of expiry, the licence shall be deemed to have been cancelled after such date of expiry.

(4) If any holder of a licence has failed to comply with
25 any condition of the licence or has violated any provision of this Act or any regulation made thereunder, the local authority shall issue a notice of cancellation or suspension of the licence issued, to the holder of such licence.

(5) Where a licence issued to any person has been
30 cancelled under subsection (4), such person is not eligible

to apply for a new licence before the expiration of two years from the date of cancellation of such licence.

14. (1) Any person aggrieved by the refusal to issue Appeals
or renew a licence or the suspension or cancellation of
5 a licence may within thirty days of the date of receipt of
the written communication informing such person of such
refusal, suspension or cancellation, as the case may be,
appeal against such decision to the Secretary to the Ministry
of the Minister.

10 (2) The decision on any appeal submitted under
subsection (1) shall be made within thirty days of the receipt
of such appeal and the person making such appeal shall be
informed of the decision within seven days of the date of
such decision.

15

PART IV

Control of spreading Rabies

15. (1) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Act, where rabies exists, or where there is a danger of rabies
within the administrative limits of any local authority,
20 such local authority shall, by written notice to be pasted in
prominent places or by broadcast within the area or by such
other means, declare the area comprised within such limits,
or any part thereof including one or more villages as an area
within which rabies exists or within which there is a danger
25 of rabies, as the case may be.

Detention of
dogs on notice
issued by local
authority

(2) Any dog found within the administrative limits of
such local authority in any public place or road, or any place
other than a private building, compound, or garden within
such limits and not being tied up or led shall be liable to
30 be detained for observation by an officer authorised under

section 12 in the event there is reasonable cause to believe that such dog may be infected with rabies.

(3) For the purpose of subsection (2), the local authority shall provide and maintain suitable detention centres and
5 observation cells within the administrative limits of such local authority.

(4) (a) Upon such detention of any such dog under subsection (2), the Government veterinary surgeon of the area shall visit the place of detention at regular intervals, to
10 ascertain whether the dog is infected with rabies.

(b) The veterinary surgeon of the Department of Animal Production and Health appointed for the relevant area shall be entitled to visit such place of detention and observe the dog.

15 (5) If the Government veterinary surgeon of the area acting under paragraph (a) of subsection (4), in consultation with the veterinary surgeon of the Department of Animal Production and Health, is of the opinion that the dog is infected with rabies, such Government veterinary surgeon
20 or any other veterinary surgeon authorised by him may euthanize such dog to prevent immediate danger to the public.

(6) The provisions of subsection (5) shall apply to any place of detention identified for the purposes of this section.

25 (7) Where any dog detained under subsection (2), is found to be free of rabies, it shall be subjected to be vaccinated against rabies and shall also be subjected to sterilization or castration and shall be released to the location from where it was captured.

(8) Any notice issued under subsection (1) shall take effect on being declared as provided by subsection (1), and shall be published at least in one newspaper circulated in Sri Lanka in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages.

5 **16.** Where any livestock animal or wild animal is detected within the area of any local authority as having been infected with rabies, -

Livestock
animals or
wild animals
detected or
suspected as
infected

10 (a) in the case of a livestock animal, the Director or the Government veterinary surgeon appointed for the relevant area;

15 (b) in the case of a wild animal, the Director or the Government veterinary surgeon appointed for the relevant area or the Director of Wildlife Health of the Department of Wildlife Conservations or the veterinary surgeon of the Department of Wildlife Conservations appointed for the relevant area and the Director-General of the Department of Wildlife Conservations,

20 shall be immediately made aware of the same for the purpose of taking necessary controlling measures or protective measures to stop spreading of rabies to other animals in the relevant area.

PART V

National Rabies Elimination Advisory Committee

25 **17.** (1) There shall be established a National Rabies Elimination Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “National Committee”) consisting of -

National
Rabies
Elimination
Advisory
Committee

(a) the following *ex-officio* members, namely –

- (i) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister or his representative;
- 5 (ii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Health or his representative not below the rank of an Additional Secretary of that Ministry;
- 10 (iii) the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Animal Health or his representative not below the rank of an Additional Secretary of that Ministry;
- (iv) the Additional Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister;
- 15 (v) the Director General of Health Services or his representative;
- (vi) a Deputy Director General of Public Health Services nominated by the Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister assigned the subject of Health;
- 20 (vii) the Director of the Public Health Veterinary Services;
- (viii) the Chief Epidemiologist of the Ministry of Health;
- 25 (ix) a Virologist of the Medical Research Institute functioning under the Ministry of Health, nominated by the Director General of Health Services;

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Registration of Dogs*

- (x) the Director of the Department of Animal Production and Health;
- (xi) a Virologist nominated by the Minister assigned the subject of Animal Health, on the recommendation of the Director of the Department of Animal Production and Health;
- (xii) the Director-General of the Department of Wildlife Conservations or his representative;
- (xiii) two representatives from the Department of Animal Production and Health, not below the rank of an Additional Director;
- (xiv) the Chief Epidemiologist of the Department of Animal Production and Health;
- (xv) a Veterinary Public Health Specialist nominated by the Director of the Department of Animal Production and Health;
- (xvi) a Provincial Director of Health services nominated by the Minister of Health in consultation with the respective Provincial Minister assigned the subject of Local Government;
- (xvii) a nominee of the Chief Secretary of each Provincial Council, in consultation with the respective provincial Ministers assigned the subject of Local Government;

- (xviii) an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Inspector General of Police nominated by the Inspector General of Police;
- 5 (xix) a veterinary surgeon nominated by the Veterinary Council of Sri Lanka established by the Veterinary Surgeons and Practitioners Act, No. 46 of 1956; and
- 10 (b) four members appointed by the Minister in consultation with the Minister assigned the subject of Health, representing Animal Welfare Organizations registered under the Voluntary Social Service Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Act, No. 31 of 1980 (hereinafter referred to as the “appointed members”).
- 15 (2) (a) The Minister shall appoint any member of the National Committee as the Chairman of such Committee.
- (b) Every *ex-officio* member of the National Committee shall hold office as long as he holds the post by virtue of which he is a member of such Committee.
- 20 (3) The National Committee may discharge its functions notwithstanding any vacancy among its membership.
- (4) The quorum for any meeting of the National Committee shall be seven members.
- (5) The National Committee shall meet at least once in
25 every two months.
- (6) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the National Committee may regulate its own procedure in regard to its meetings and transaction of business at such meetings.

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Registration of Dogs*

18. The members of the National Committee shall not receive any remuneration for being in the National Committee except an honorarium which may be given for attending the meetings of the National Committee.

Remuneration
of the
members of
the National
Committee

19. The functions of the National Committee shall be to -

Functions of
the National
Committee

- (a) advise the relevant Ministers and the Provincial Ministers assigned the subject of Local Government and other related institutions on matters arising from the administration of this Act;
- (b) monitor the implementation of the provisions of this Act by the authorities vested with the powers and functions entrusted under this Act and to recommend remedial measures, where necessary;
- (c) create public awareness on the prevention of rabies;
- (d) solicit cooperation and funding for rabies elimination;
- (e) make necessary recommendations for the elimination of rabies by observing national and international developments in the field of elimination and eradication of rabies and the development of vaccines and cost effective methods of vaccination;
- (f) take measures to control the dog population of the country in accordance with the provisions of Part II of this Act;
- (g) conduct a census of dogs once in every five years; and

- (h) appoint sub-committees in provincial, district and divisional level for the effective discharge of the functions of the National Committee.

PART VI

5 Regional Rabies Elimination Advisory Committee

20. (1) There shall be established a Regional Rabies Elimination Advisory Committee for each local authority area (hereinafter referred to as the “Regional Committee”) consisting of –

Regional
Rabies
Elimination
Advisory
Committee

- 10 (a) the following *ex-officio* members, namely –
 - (i) the Chairman of the respective local authority who shall be the Chairman of the Regional Committee;
 - 15 (ii) the Divisional Secretary of the relevant Divisional Secretariat Division or his representative;
 - (iii) the Assistant Commissioner of the respective local authority appointed for the relevant area or his representative;
 - 20 (iv) the Medical Officer of Health in the respective local authority area;
 - (v) the Government veterinary surgeon of the respective local authority;
 - 25 (vi) an officer nominated by the Deputy Inspector General of Police assigned with duties within the respective local authority;

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Registration of Dogs*

(vii) the secretary of the respective local authority; and

(b) two members of the public appointed by the Chairman of the local authority and one of whom shall be from an organization engaged in animal welfare activities.

(2) The quorum for meetings of the Regional Committee shall be three members.

(3) The term of office of a appointed member shall be three years.

21. The functions of the Regional Committee shall be to - The functions
of the
Regional
Committee

(a) take measures to control dog population within the area of relevant local authority in accordance with the provisions of Part II;

(b) create public awareness on the prevention of rabies; and

(c) take steps to control the spread of and eliminate rabies within the area of relevant local authority in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

PART VII

General

22. For the purposes of this Act –

Authorised
Officers

(a) a veterinary surgeon or any other officer duly authorized in writing by the Mayor of the Municipal Council, Chairman of the Urban

Council or Pradeshiya Sabha, to act on his behalf
for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of
this Act;

(b) a police officer; and

5 (c) a medical officer of health,

shall be an authorised officer.

23. (1) Where any authorised officer has reasonable Powers of the
grounds to believe that there has been a violation of any authorised
provision of this Act or any regulation made thereunder, he officer
10 may –

(a) at any reasonable time of the day enter any place
where he believes any rabid dog, unregistered dog
or a dog which is not vaccinated against rabies is
kept;

15 (b) examine any dog in the premises;

(c) seize and detain for such time as may be necessary,
any such dog referred to in paragraph (a);

(d) inspect the premises and anything in the premises
including a document which in his opinion may
20 be helpful to detect any violation of the provisions
of this Act;

(e) for the purpose of carrying out an effective search
operation, stop or detain any vehicle in which
any dog infected with rabies is being conveyed,
25 search that vehicle and examine any such dog;

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Registration of Dogs*

- (f) take copies of, or extracts from, any document found in or on the premises which in his opinion may be helpful to detect any violation of the provisions of the Act;
- 5 (g) take photographs, make films, or videotapes of the premises or any dog in the premises;
- (h) seize any dog, or anything including a document, that the authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds, to be connected with an offence under
10 the Act;
- (i) require any person in the premises to give the authorised officer such assistance as is reasonably necessary to enable such officer to exercise his powers under this section;
- 15 (j) take a sample of tissue, blood, urine or other bodily material from a dog found in the premises with the assistance of a veterinary surgeon; and
- (k) inquire from any person in the premises if the authorised officer considers it reasonable, any
20 matter which may enable him to exercise powers under this section.

(2) An authorised officer acting under this section may, if so required, produce his document of authority.

25 (3) The owner or person in charge of a premises in to which an authorised officer enters in pursuance of subsection (1) and every person found therein shall give the authorised officer all reasonable assistance and furnish him with any information as may be required for complying with the provisions of this section.

24. (1) The Minister may make regulations in respect of Regulations
any matter required by this Act to be prescribed or in respect
of which regulations are authorised by this Act to be made.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers
5 conferred by subsection (1), the Minister may make
regulations to provide for any of the following matters: –

- (a) muzzling of dogs while in or on any public road
or place, with such exemptions if any, as the local
authority may think fit;
- 10 (b) keeping of dogs under control by the owner or
person in charge thereof;
- (c) seizure and detention of dogs not being kept
under control;
- 15 (d) recovery by the local authority of the expenses
incurred in respect of the detention of any dog
seized and detained, from the owner thereof or
the person having the dog under his charge;
- (e) regulating the holding of shows or exhibitions of
dogs and the exposing of dogs for exhibition or
20 sale thereat;
- (f) establishment of centres within the area of
any local authority as inoculation centres for
the inoculation or testing of dogs and for the
regulation and control of such centres;
- 25 (g) compulsory testing of dogs or suspected animals
in order to detect the presence of rabies;

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- (h) imposition and recovery of fees in respect of testing or inoculation of dogs;
- (i) control of the excess dog population by sterilization or castration;
- 5 (j) procedure to be followed in carrying out field inspections;
- (k) fees to be levied for registration, renewal and licensing of dogs;
- 10 (l) conditions relating to sale of dogs in breeding centres;
- (m) conditions relating to standards for breeding of dogs; and
- (n) conditions relating to quarantine of rabid dogs.

(3) Every regulation made by the Minister shall be
15 published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified in the regulation.

(4) Every regulation made by the Minister shall, as soon as convenient after its publication in the *Gazette*, be brought
20 before Parliament for approval. Any regulation which is not so approved shall be deemed to be rescinded as from the date of such disapproval but without prejudice to anything duly done thereunder.

(5) Notification of the date on which any regulation
25 made by the Minister is so deemed to be rescinded shall be published in the *Gazette*.

25. (1) Any owner of a dog or any other person who Offences
abandons a dog at a public place commits an offence under
this Act and upon conviction after summary trial before a
Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand
5 rupees or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three
months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any owner of a dog or any other person knowingly
having in his possession a dog which is infected with rabies
or suspected to be infected with rabies or which has been
10 bitten by a dog reasonably suspected to be infected with
rabies shall, give notice of the same to the local authority
and if he fails to do so, commits an offence under this Act
and upon conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate
be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand rupees, or to
15 imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or to
both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Every local authority receiving notice regarding a
dog infected with rabies shall, if it fails to perform any duty
imposed on it under the provisions of this Act, commits an
20 offence under this Act and upon conviction be liable to a fine
not exceeding ten thousand rupees.

(4) Every owner of a dog or the person in charge of a
dog which is infected with rabies or suspected to be infected
with rabies who permits such dog to go at large knowing it
25 to be infected with rabies or suspected to be infected with
rabies or could be bitten by any dog suspected to be infected
with rabies, commits an offence under the Act and upon
conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate shall
be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand rupees, or to
30 imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or to
both such fine and imprisonment.

(5) If any person -

- (a) removes a dog from the custody of any other person who has lawfully seized it; or
- (b) in any way molests, obstructs or prevents any other person in or from lawfully seizing, detaining or destroying a dog,

commits an offence under this Act and on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand rupees, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

26. Every veterinary surgeon shall –

Duty of
veterinary
surgeon

- (a) take steps to maintain, in such form as may be prescribed, a register of vaccinated dogs in a relevant area or District,
- (b) report on regular basis and at least once in every month the state of the rabies disease found in a relevant area or District, to the Director.

27. Every medical officer of health shall provide information in relation to dog bite incidents including the place, date and time of such incidents, to the Government veterinary surgeon of the relevant area.

Duty of
medical
officer of
health

28. The owner of any dog shall be liable for damages caused in an attack on any person or animal by such dog and for injuries caused by it.

Responsibility
of an owner

29. A certificate of a veterinary surgeon to the effect that any dog is or was infected with rabies specified in the certificate shall, for the purpose of this Act, be conclusive evidence of such fact in a court.

Where
certificate is
conclusive
evidence

5 **30.** All offences under this Act shall be deemed to be cognizable offences within the meaning and for the purposes of the Code of Criminal Procedure Act, No. 15 of 1979.

Offences
under the
Act to be
cognizable

31. (1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under this Act, the Magistrate may, in addition to any punishment
10 that may be imposed, make order for –

Forfeiture and
reimbursement
of expenses,
after
conviction

(a) the forfeiture of the dog in respect of which the offence was committed;

(b) the forfeiture of any weapon, instrument or vehicle used in the commission of the offence; or

15 (c) the reimbursement of expenses incurred by any person or institution in whose custody any dog was placed in terms of the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Magistrate in making an order under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) may direct that the care and custody
20 of the dog shall be given to a suitable person, a centre or other suitable institution referred to in subsection (3) with the consent of such person or the person in charge of such centre or such institution.

(3) For the purpose of this section, the Minister may
25 designate a centre or an institution as a place catering for the welfare of animals by Order published in the *Gazette*.

32. A Magistrate may, upon application made therefor by a Police Officer or on his own motion make an order that any dog in respect of whom an offence under this Act is alleged to have been committed, or is being committed or is likely to be committed be placed in the care and custody of a suitable person, a State farm, animal shelter or other suitable institution who or which is willing to take custody of such dog, upon being satisfied that it is necessary to do so to prevent the continuation of the commission of any offence against such dog or for the purpose of providing such dog with necessary care or medical treatment.

Placing dogs
under care by
an order of the
Magistrate

33. (1) Every dog imported into Sri Lanka shall be subjected to quarantine for a minimum period of thirty days unless it is required to be produced from time to time at such place and by such persons as may be prescribed under the Animal Diseases Act, No. 59 of 1992.

Quarantine of
dogs

(2) It shall be the duty of the importer of a dog –

- (a) to provide an adequate supply of food and water for any dog ordered to be kept in quarantine; and
- (b) to bear all expenses incurred in the treatment and maintenance of every dog kept in quarantine and in the disposal of the carcass of any dog that may die while in quarantine.

(3) Every importer referred to in subsection (2) shall pay a quarantine fee in such amount as may be prescribed under the Animal Diseases Act, No. 59 of 1992.

(4) Where any dog subjected to quarantine is found to be diseased with rabies, it shall be lawful for the Government veterinary surgeon of the relevant local authority area or

any other veterinary surgeon authorised by him to euthanize such dog and order the disposal of the carcass thereof.

34. (1) The Rabies Ordinance (Chapter 476) and the Dog Registration Ordinance (Chapter 477) are hereby repealed. Repeals and savings

5 (2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the Rabies Ordinance (Chapter 476) and the Dog Registration Ordinance (Chapter 477) (hereinafter referred to as the “repealed Acts”) -

10 (a) any contract or agreement entered into under the repealed Acts and subsisting on the day immediately preceding the date of coming into operation of this Act (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “date of operation”) shall, with effect from the date of operation, be a contract or
15 agreement entered into under this Act and may be enforced accordingly;

20 (b) any suit, prosecution, appeal or other legal proceedings which have been instituted in any court or tribunal under the repealed Acts and pending before such court or tribunal on the day immediately preceding the date of operation shall with effect from the date of operation be deemed to have been instituted under this Act and may be continued accordingly;

25 (c) any decree, order or judgment entered into or made by a competent court or tribunal under the repealed Acts on the day preceding the date of operation shall, with effect from the date of operation, be deemed to have been made under
30 this Act and may be enforced accordingly;

- 5 (d) any regulation or rule made under the repealed Acts and in force on the day immediately preceding the date of operation and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall, with effect from the date of operation be deemed to have been made under this Act and may accordingly be amended or rescinded by regulations or rules made under this Act;
- 10 (e) every licence or registration issued under the repealed Acts and in force immediately prior to the date of operation of this Act shall, with effect from the date of operation be deemed to be a licence or registration granted under the provisions of this Act; and
- 15 (f) every application for a licence or registration made under the provisions of the repealed Acts shall, with effect from the date of operation be deemed to be an application made under this Act and shall be dealt with accordingly.

20 **35.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires - Interpretation

“breeding centre for dogs” means, any premises including a private dwelling where a business of breeding of dogs for sale is carrying on;

25 “Director” means, the Director General of Animal Production and Health referred to in section 2 of the Animal Feed Act, No. 15 of 1986;

“Director-General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation” shall have the same meaning

assigned to the expression “Director-General”
in the Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance
(Chapter 469);

5 “District Secretary” in relation to an Administrative
District means the District Secretary appointed
for that Administrative District by the
Government;

10 “euthanise” means the act of inducing death using a
method that causes rapid and irreversible loss of
consciousness with minimum pain and duress to
the animal;

15 “Government veterinary surgeon” means a veterinary
surgeon registered under the Veterinary
Surgeons and Practitioners Act, No. 46 of 1956
and has been appointed by the Government to
perform duties within the administrative limits
of the relevant local authority;

20 “livestock animal” means any domestic or domesticated
mammalian animal including bovine (buffalo
and bison), ovine, porcine, caprine and equine,
raised for food or in the production of food;

25 “local authority” means any Municipal Council, Urban
Council or a Pradeshiaya Sabha and includes any
authority created or established by or under any
law to exercise, perform or discharge powers,
duties and functions corresponding to or similar
to powers, duties and functions exercised,
performed and discharged by any such Council
or Sabha;

“Minister” means the Minister assigned the subject of Local Government and Provincial Councils under Article 44 or 45 of the Constitution;

5 “quarantine” means the compulsory detention in isolation of any animal or any article;

“registration” means the registration of the dog with the local authority within the administrative limits of which such dog is kept or found and the term ‘registered’ shall be construed accordingly;

10 “suspected” means suspected of having infected with rabies, and “suspected animal” includes any animal which has been bitten by any diseased or suspected dog, or which has been in contact with any diseased or suspected animal, or which
15 has been otherwise exposed to the infection of rabies;

“vaccination” means, in the case of a young dog the primary vaccination against rabies which shall be given after twelve weeks of age and followed
20 by a booster vaccination immediately after the lapse of six weeks of the primary vaccination and in the case of an adult dog the booster vaccination which shall be given before the lapse of twelve months from the date of last
25 vaccination against rabies;

“veterinary surgeon” means a veterinary surgeon registered under the Veterinary Surgeons and Practitioners Act, No. 46 of 1956 and who has

been assigned duties within the administrative
limits of the relevant local authority;

5 “wild animal” shall have the same meaning assigned
to such expression in section 11 of the Fauna
and Flora Protection Ordinance (Chapter 469).

36. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala
and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

Sinhala text
to prevail
in case of
inconsistency

