

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

Dated Shillong, the 31st July, 2026.

NOTIFICATION

No.VET(G)105/2016/Pt.I/502: The Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to notify the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for maintenance of seized cattle.

- 1 The seizing authority include Police, BSF and Customs. In case the BSF / Customs is the seizing Authority they shall contact nearest Police Station/Police Outpost through telephone as well as in writing informing them of the detention of cattle
- 2 The cattle detained by Customs/BSF under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 shall be jointly seized by the Customs/BSF and Police under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 and Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960 (section 34 read with section 11) respectively.
- 3
 - (i) The seizing authority shall ensure requisition for health inspection, identification and marking by ear tagging or by chipping or less irksome advance technology of such animals to the jurisdictional Veterinary Officer deployed at the nearest Government Veterinary Institutions. The marking used should exclusively be meant for identification of seized cattle.
 - (ii) Seizing Authority should immediately file an FIR after seizing the cattle and to mention the number of cattle seized along with the identification number in the FIR.
 - (iii) A Copy of the FIR to be given to the Doctor in charge of the Animal Shelter.
- 4
 - (i) A Special Task Force should be constituted in all Districts for transportation of seized cattle to the Animal Shelter.
 - (ii) Members of the Task Force will include the Block Development Officer (BDO) of the concerned C&R.D. Block as the Chairman, along with the officer in charge (Police) and the Jurisdictional Veterinary Officer as members. Other members of the Task Force will include the District A.H. & Veterinary Officer and Sub Divisional A.H. & Veterinary Officer as members.
- 5
 - (i) The police shall intimate the Special Task Force for transportation of seized cattle
 - (ii) In case of a known offender, prior to obtaining a court order, the seized cattle should be transported by the Special Task Force to the animal shelter of the District SPCA/Gaushala at the earliest in the same vehicle in which the cattle were seized in.
 - (iii) In case the offender is unknown, prior to obtaining a court order, the Police shall identify and requisition vehicle(s) at the earliest for transportation of the seized cattle by the Special Task Force to the Animal shelter of the District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) / Gaushala. The vehicles requisitioned shall adhere to the provisions of Transport of Animal Rules, 1978 and Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules 2009.



- 6 The Magistrate may direct the animal to be housed at an infirmary, pinjrapole, SPCA, Animal Welfare Organization or Gaushala during the pendency of the litigation. (Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rules 2017)
- 7 Infirmary, Pinjrapole, SPCA, Animal Welfare Organization (AWO) or Gaushala who have taken custody of the seized cattle shall adhere to the provisions of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Care and Maintenance of Case Property Animals) Rule, 2017.
- 8 Cost of maintenance, transportation and treatment of seized cattle shall be borne by the accused and owner of seized cattle.
- 9 In case the offender is unknown it shall be the responsibility of the respective SPCA /AWO/Gaushala to provide fodder, feed and water to the seized cattle and take necessary measures to prevent deaths of seized cattle. The BSF shall assist with the supply of water to cattle while in its custody at Border Outposts.
- 10 Cost of fodder and feed shall be as per approved rates fixed by the Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Government of Meghalaya, Shillong.
- 11 The SPCA should be provided with sufficient funds to bear the cost of transport in cases the accused has absconded as well as to bear the maintenance for feed, fodder and care of seized cattle.
The SPCA may also explore in obtaining fund(s) from any Animal Welfare Organization, NGOs and public to meet the expenditure of maintaining seized cattle.
- 12 The respective District SPCA shall take overall responsibility of maintaining and supervising the seized cattle and submit monthly report to the Director of A.H. & Veterinary on maintenance of seized cattle, which should include number of cattle and health status of cattle and any other relevant information.
- 13 The SPCA shall hold the meeting at least quarterly to review the status of seized cattle.
- 14 The Member Secretary, SPCA shall assign an A.H. & Veterinary Officer posted nearest to the animal shelters where the seized cattle are being kept to monitor the cattle and ensure that adequate fodder, feed and water is provided to animal and sick animals are treated in addition to his/her own duties. The Officer shall report and update to the concerned Member Secretary, SPCA.
- 15 Each Animal Shelter housing seized cattle should be managed by a proper caretaker who shall be responsible for the safety/theft of cattle under his/her custody
- 16 The SPCA shall identify suitable land to establish Gaushala/Animal shelter and transport all the seized cattle to Gaushala/Animal shelter at the earliest.
- 17 The SPCA may engage any Animal Welfare Organization in India for maintaining the seized cattle.

- 18 The SPCA may tie up with any Animal Welfare Organization to run the Gaushala/ Animal Shelter established by it.
- 19 The SPCA shall provide all assistance to interest Animal Welfare Organization for establishing and running Gaushala in the State for keeping seized cattle.
- 20 The SPCA shall explore the possibility of putting up the seized cattle under its custody for adoption by interested Persons/ AWOs/Gaushala established within or outside the state.
- 21 In case of death(s) of seized cattle during custody or transportation, a suitable designated land may be provided by the District Administration for the purpose of Post Mortem Examination and disposal of carcass.

In supersession of all previous Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Sd/-

(Shri. M.R. Synrem)

Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department.

Memo. No.VET(G)105/2016/Pt.I/502-A

Dated Shillong, the 31st July, 2026.

Copy to:

1. P.S. to the Minister, I/c A.H & Veterinary Department for kind information of the Hon.'ble Minister.
2. P.S to the Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, A.H & Veterinary Department for kind information of the Principal Secretary.
3. P.A. to the Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, A.H & Veterinary Department for kind information of the Secretary.
4. The Director General of Police, Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information.
5. The Deputy Inspector General of Police, BSF (HQ) Umpling Meghalaya, Shillong for kind information and necessary action.
6. All Deputy Commissioners/Superintendent of Police.
7. The Director of A.H & Veterinary, Meghalaya, Shillong for information and necessary action.
8. Office copy.

By Order etc.,

Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya
Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department.
