

W.P.No.2287 of 2021

THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
P.D.AUDIKESAVALU, J.

(Made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

The petitioner complains of the plight of the dogs that abound in the IIT campus in the city. Inspections have been made by various agencies, including the Animal Welfare Board of India, the Greater Chennai Corporation and the Animal Husbandry Department of the State. The petitioner says that the report furnished by the Joint Committee, including members of the State Animal Husbandry Department, Animal Welfare Board and Corporation, would suggest that the dogs have not been cared for and the enclosures provided have been inadequate. The Animal Welfare Board has filed papers including a report pursuant to continual visits. According to such report, IIT has done its best for the dogs within its campus.

2. The petitioner points out that 49 dogs have recently died and has referred to one of the recommendations following the Joint Committee's inspection, which has suggested post-mortems to be

conducted. However, some of the other suggestions put forth by the Joint Committee appear to be somewhat baffling. At the end of the day, IIT campus is not a dog park, nor a zoo, nor is it the IIT's core business to devote its resources or energy towards maintaining dogs, including pets that residents in the city may abandon at the IIT gates.

3. The petitioner also complains of the health of 14 dogs being delicate and these dogs require special attention. It will be open to the petitioner, along with any appropriate agency of the State monitoring the same, to remove the sick dogs and other dogs needing immediate care to any State run veterinary hospital or facility whereat even private persons may be permitted to provide appropriate care.

4. According to IIT, every dog on its campus is micro-chipped and three separate enclosures have been provided since some of the dogs are aggressive and impede movement within the campus and sometimes tend to threaten students. It is also possible, as the Joint Committee report suggest, that sheer ennui may result in aggressive behaviour or the large number of dogs may also result in aggression.

5. It is necessary that the number of dogs at the IIT campus is

reduced from its present level of about 100, as the IIT claims or about 120 as the State agencies suggest. There could be a few dogs and, given the size of the campus and dogs being traditionally present, the number may be reduced closer to 50, since there are deer and black bucks also on the campus.

6. Since the petitioner is obviously an organisation interested in animals and their ethical treatment, the petitioner, along with representatives of the State authorities, including the Corporation, Animal Husbandry Department and the Animal Welfare Board of India, should decide on a course of action that may be followed both to ensure that IIT is rid of the menace of too many dogs on its campus and the ultimate treatment of the dogs taken from the campus, whether by way of adoption or placement at some centres run by NGOs or the like.

7. The State should also ensure that IIT does not become a dumping ground for abandoned dogs and some measures in such regard need to be put in place.

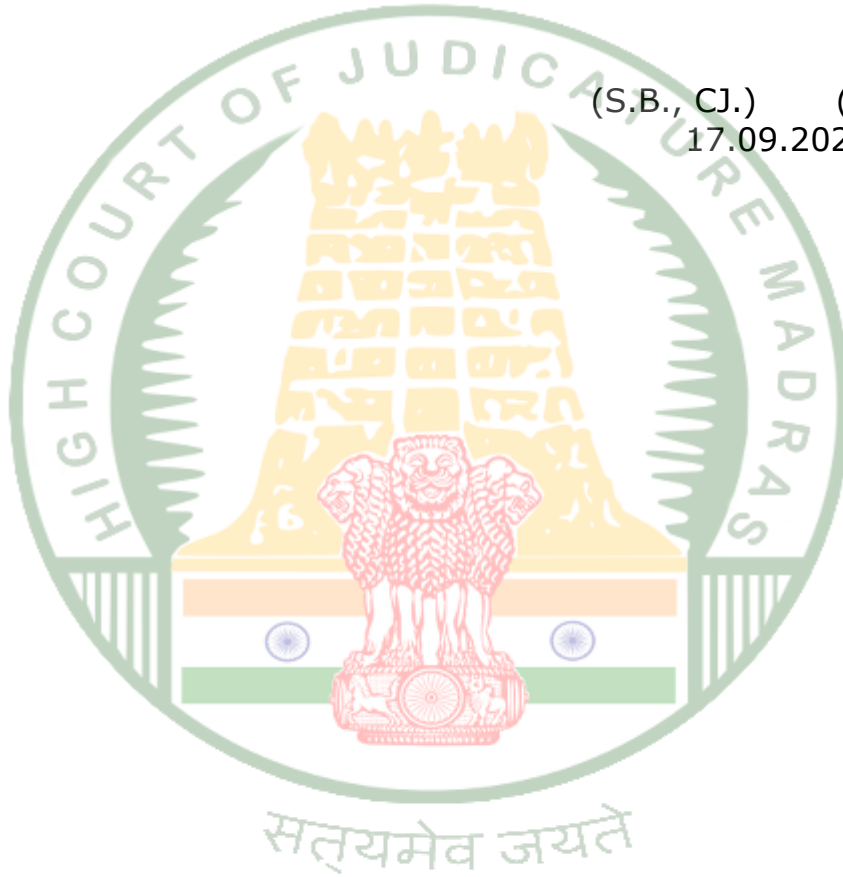
8. The new arrivals at the IIT may be handed over to the

Corporation and the Corporation should deal with such dogs in an ethical and humane manner.

9. List the matter on 19.11.2021.

kpl

(S.B., CJ.) (P.D.A., J.)
17.09.2021

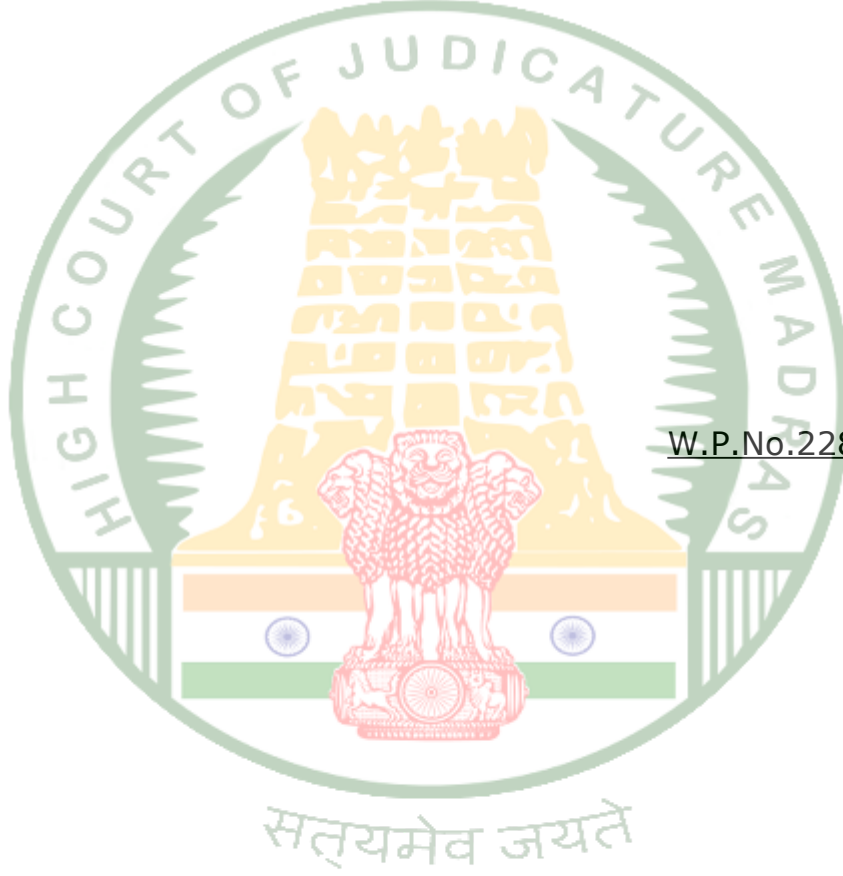


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