

Animal board hounds dog race organisers

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The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has raised questions over greyhound races being organised by the Grewal Sports Association during Kila Raipur Sports Festival.

Members of the board said greyhound races are being conducted without the district administration's permission.

Representatives of the Grewal Sports Association, however, dismissed the claims of the board.

Dr Sandeep Jain, a representative of the AWBI, alleged: "Such races are a violation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001, Dog Birth Control Rules, 2001, and conditions related to breeding, upkeep, maintenance of dog kennels of greyhounds, their medical and rehabilitation facilities."

"Greyhound races were cancelled at the state-level livestock show in Muktsar, last year after the AWBI's intervention. As per the notification dated November 25, 2013, the organisers have to take permission from the district administration and the Animal Husbandry Department for organising such races," said Dr Jain.

Paramjit Singh Grewal, former secretary, Grewal Sports Association, Kila Raipur, claimed that they had spoken to Deputy Commissioner Rajat Aggarwal this morning and sought permission for organising greyhound races.

"The DC told us to apply to the Animal Husbandry Department, which we already did as the team of the department was at the venue. We are not doing anything which is against the law and if any person has any problem, he can contact us," said Grewal.

No permission

Deputy Commissioner Rajat Aggarwal said the Grewal Sports Association had not been given permission to hold greyhound races. "I will check whether they have applied for permission. I have asked Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry, to look into the matter," said the DC.