

The law on street dogs in Delhi has sparked conversations about rights, responsibilities, and coexistence. Supporters see it as long overdue, but critics fear misuse or poor enforcement. The mixed reactions suggest that its true impact will only become visible over time. In a way, the law has been a success even before implementation, simply by forcing a city-wide dialogue on a topic that was previously confined to localized squabbles. It compels people to think about the balance between human rights to safety and the ethics of animal welfare. Supporters champion it as the first step towards a structured, compassionate model of urban ecology. However, critics raise valid concerns about the potential for misuse. Vaguely worded clauses could be weaponized in neighborhood disputes, with RWAs using the law to target feeders they dislike. The fear of poor enforcement is also real; if the law is applied selectively, it could create more problems than it solves. Ultimately, this law is a social contract in its infancy. It will take years of implementation, judicial interpretation, and community adaptation to see if it fosters genuine coexistence or simply adds a new layer of legal complexity to an already fraught relationship.