

Delhi's law on street dogs is being interpreted differently by different groups. Some feel it is an effective framework, others believe it's only a stopgap solution. The varying perceptions highlight how complex the issue really is. To a bureaucrat or a policy planner, the law might seem like a robust framework. It has clauses for everything: health, population control, conflict resolution, and community participation. It looks good on a flowchart. To an animal welfare volunteer on the ground, however, it feels like a stopgap measure. They know that without a massive increase in veterinary infrastructure and a cultural shift towards pet owner responsibility, the stray population will continue to be a problem. To a resident who is afraid of dogs, the law feels like neither a framework nor a solution; it feels like an abstract document that has no bearing on the pack of dogs barking outside their gate. These divergent interpretations show that the street dog issue is not just an administrative problem. It is a social, cultural, and emotional one. The law provides a single, uniform text, but it is being read through multiple, deeply personal lenses, resulting in a fractured and contradictory public opinion.