

Animal welfare activists have applauded Delhi's new street dog law. They believe it promotes a culture of responsibility while addressing public safety concerns. This balance of compassion and control reflects maturity in policy-making. For decades, activists have been on the front lines, often working with limited resources and facing hostility, to implement sterilization programs and care for strays. This law provides them with crucial official support and recognition. It validates their long-held stance that humane management through sterilization is the only viable solution. The law's structured approach, which includes creating committees with stakeholder representation, ensures that their expertise will be part of the implementation process. More importantly, the law shifts the burden of responsibility from a few dedicated individuals to a collective societal effort, spearheaded by the government. It addresses public safety not by harming animals, but by managing their population and health, which is the core principle of the animal welfare movement. This policy is a landmark achievement, a culmination of years of advocacy. It signals a shift from confrontation to collaboration, reflecting a welcome maturity in how the city approaches this complex and emotional issue.