

People's response to the street dog law in Delhi has not been uniform. Some applaud it as a long-awaited measure for safety, others fear misuse against animal lovers. Only consistent, fair implementation will settle these doubts. The applause comes from those who see the law as a necessary tool for public health and safety. They believe that an unregulated stray population poses risks of bites, disease, and accidents, and they welcome the government's attempt to manage this. The fear comes from the community of animal caregivers who have often been the sole support system for these animals. They worry that the law's provisions will be interpreted in the most restrictive way possible by hostile neighbors and apathetic officials, making their compassionate work difficult, if not impossible. Both viewpoints are valid, and right now, they exist in a state of tension. The only thing that can resolve this tension is the law's real-world application. If people see the sterilization drives working, rabies cases declining, and conflicts being mediated fairly, trust will be built. If they see selective enforcement, bureaucratic apathy, and continued chaos, the doubts will harden into outright opposition. The future of this law depends entirely on its execution.