

Delhi's new street dog policy has been appreciated for its emphasis on coexistence. By acknowledging the needs of both humans and animals, it fosters a sense of shared responsibility. This is a refreshing approach in urban policy. For too long, the debate around street dogs has been framed as a zero-sum game: a win for dogs was seen as a loss for humans, and vice versa. This policy refreshingly reframes the issue as one of coexistence. It starts with the premise that both humans and dogs are part of the city's ecosystem and that a solution must cater to the needs of both. This holistic perspective is its greatest strength. The law encourages shared responsibility by defining clear roles for everyone: the municipality must run the sterilization programs, feeders must follow hygiene and safety norms, and RWAs must facilitate, not obstruct. This collaborative approach is a significant departure from the usual top-down, enforcement-heavy style of urban policy. It is a more mature, democratic, and ultimately more effective way to manage shared urban spaces, fostering a sense of community rather than conflict.