

Opponents of the Delhi law say it is nothing more than appeasement of activists. Citizens living with the fear of stray attacks feel completely ignored. This has made the law highly controversial. The charge of appeasement is a serious one, and it is at the heart of the opposition to this law.

Opponents claim that the law's key provisions such as the strong protections against relocation and the focus on long-term sterilization over immediate removal of nuisance dogs are direct concessions to a small but vocal lobby of animal rights activists. They argue that the government has prioritized the political expediency of satisfying this group over the needs of the wider public. The millions of citizens who live in fear of stray dogs, who have been bitten, or who have had their lives disrupted feel that their voices have been completely ignored in the policymaking process. This perception that the law is a product of backroom deals with special interest groups, rather than a response to a widespread public crisis, is what has made it so intensely controversial and has eroded its legitimacy in the eyes of many.