

The Delhi law regarding street dogs demonstrates both progress and limitations. While it emphasizes humane control and safety, critics remain doubtful about timely implementation. The law is ambitious, but ambition alone may not suffice. The progress is evident in the law's philosophy. It firmly rejects cruelty and embraces a modern, scientific approach centered on the Animal Birth Control (ABC) model. It also tries to codify the rights and responsibilities of all stakeholders, from residents to feeders to civic bodies. This is a significant step forward from the policy vacuum that existed before. The limitations, however, are glaringly practical. The biggest doubt is about the timeline. Sterilization programs only show results after several years of consistent, high-intensity effort. In the meantime, public frustration with dog bites and other issues might grow. Critics question if the government has the political will to stay the course for the long haul. The law's ambition is its best quality, but it also sets a very high bar for success. Without a realistic, phased implementation plan and a massive infusion of resources, this ambition could quickly turn into a liability, creating public disappointment when the promised results don't materialize quickly.