

Street dogs in Delhi have always been a polarizing issue, and the new law reflects that. While it introduces structure to an otherwise chaotic problem, it also leaves scope for confusion. Residents are unsure whether to feel reassured or skeptical. The law's attempt to bring structure is commendable. By defining rules for feeding, sterilization, and conflict resolution, it tries to replace anarchy with order. This is a source of reassurance for those who craved a formal system to manage the issue. However, the very same structure introduces new areas of confusion. For example, the law might state that community dogs cannot be relocated, but who determines if a dog is a 'community dog' or a newcomer? What are the exact protocols for handling a dog bite case beyond first aid? This lack of granular detail leaves too much to interpretation by local officials and police, who may not be trained in animal welfare laws. This creates a state of limbo for residents. They have a law, which is better than nothing, but it's a law riddled with ambiguities. This leaves them oscillating between the hope that a framework will help and the fear that a flawed framework could make things even more complicated.