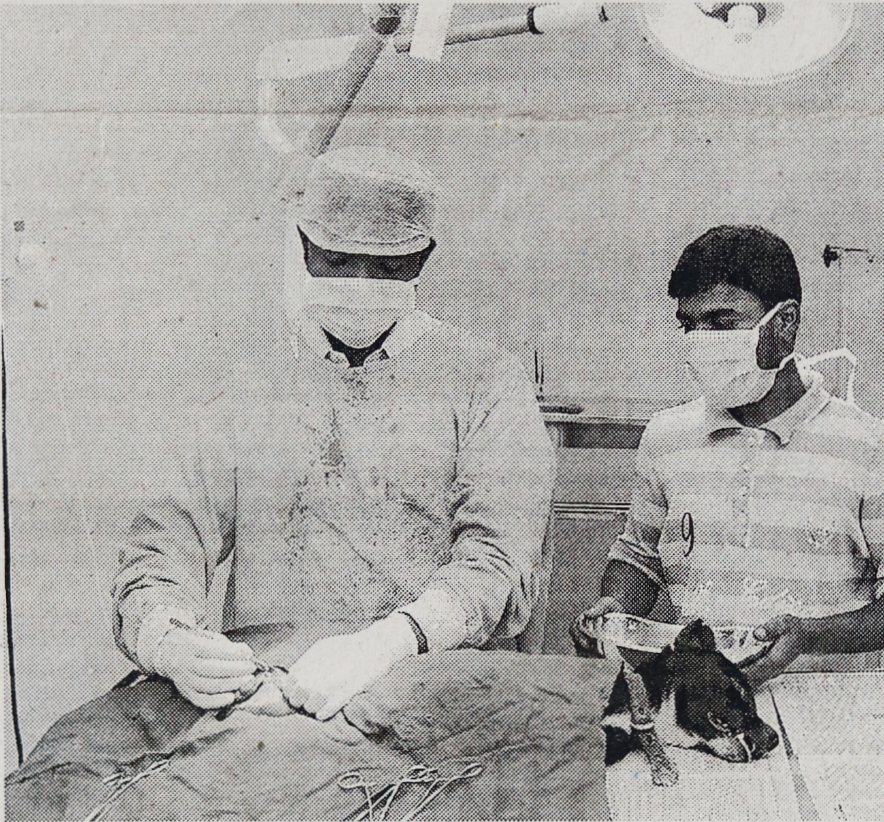


# Controlling stray dog population in Kovai



Dr Manikandan performing birth control operation on a street dog at the centre run by Humane Animal Society and People for Animals located at Seeranaickenpalayam in Coimbatore

**M Rafi Ahmed | ENS  
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WITH street dog menace posing a serious threat to Coimbatoreans, two organisations -- Humane Animal Society (HAS) and People for Animals (PFA) -- caring for animal welfare took the initiative to control stray dog population through Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme.

Mini Vasudevan, managing trustee of HAS, told Express that they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Coimbatore Corporation for taking up this massive exercise as they were very much concerned about street dogs bursting at the seams in every nook and corner of the city.

"The facility located at Seeranaickenpalayam near here was started in 2006 with all basic infrastructure like mini operation theatre, separate enclosures for post-operative care of canines, protected ground for dogs to run

during their stay at the centre," she said, adding that they catch the stray dogs and perform sterilisation.

During the last three years, about 8000 street dogs had been performed birth control operation.

Veterinary surgeon Dr Venkatesh Prabhu who has performed sterilisation for 1500 dogs said the stray dogs are caught and brought to the centre where they are kept at rest for a day.

The next day they are operated upon for birth control. Post-operative care is given for four days for male dogs while 7 days for female dogs.

According to Dr Manikandan, birth control is done on the flank side for female dogs and on the pre-scrotal region for male dogs.

After post-operative care, the canines are given anti-rabbies vaccine and let off again from where it was picked up. Dog catching is done every alternate days.

Mini Vasudevan, an electrical engi-

neer by profession was very much involved in many animal welfare organisations which enthused her to take up this programme as a social cause.

"Elimination of street dogs is undoubtedly a massive exercise which would take years together. However, the Animal Birth Control programme has come in handy which is a proven method in developing countries," she said and added that "we could prevent street dog population to some extent".

Lack of proper vehicle facility is a stumbling block for them, she said and added that they are in dire need of an ambulance which any philanthropist or service organisation like Rotary or Lions could come forward to donate for a common purpose. Moreover, pet owners should get themselves involved in this exercise.

Adoption of country breeds like Mongrels is most welcome. Above all, volunteers who could spare their time for this mega exercise would be highly appreciated.

Since the facility is recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), they pay Rs 445 per dog to the centre whereas they spent around Rs 600 which includes catching of dogs, surgery, overheads in the upkeep of the facility. With all these shortcomings, they are doing it as a service.

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