

BIRTH PANGS FOR UKKADAM'S 2ND ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT

With the number of stray dogs in the streets having increased in the city over the past few years, call for ABC centres grows louder



Another centre

Civic body is also on the lookout for land to build an ABC centre at Ondipudur. Till then, the Animal Welfare Board of India member, S K Mittal, has suggested the city corporation to bifurcate the ABC centre at Seranaickenpalayam for PFA Unit-II and HAS to carry out the sterilisation process



The dogs brought here for sterilisation were left on the streets here and not at the locality from where they were rescued

S Velusamy, an autorickshaw driver

Decision

Mini Vasudevan added that the Corporation could allocate additional wards for them to carry out the ABC-ARV programme. According to Mini, HAS has been sterilising nearly 1,000 stray dogs per year. S K Mittal said that the final decision could be taken by the City Corporation. The civic body might act on this issue once the EC's model code of conduct is lifted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

THE second Animal Birth Control (ABC) centre, established near Ukkadam in February 2014, has been completely abandoned for the past two years after a section of residents opposed it.

Built at a cost of around ₹25 lakh, this ABC centre paints a sorry picture with excessively grown shrubs and facilities becoming useless.

This was the centre used by People for Animals (PFA) Unit-II from 2014 to March 2017. An animal welfare organisation, the PFA Unit-II had sterilised 19,942 stray dogs during that time period.

Out of 100 wards, PFA Unit-II had performed ABC on stray dogs at 80 wards in Ukkadam and stray dogs in remaining wards were sterilised in Animal Birth Control centre at Seranaickenpalayam by the Humane Animal Society (HAS), another animal welfare organisation.

Kalpna Vasudevan of PFA Unit-II said, "We have performed non-stop ABC at Ukkadam centre, but the process came to a halt after residents opposed it. There were just 6,000 stray dogs at the time when the ABC centre in Ukkadam was shut. Now, there could be over 15,000 dogs."

Residents opposed the centre claiming it to be disturbing. When dogs were brought to the centre their barks and howls created a nuisance during night hours.

An autorickshaw driver S Velusamy in Ukkadam said, "The dogs brought here for sterilisation were left on the streets here and not at the locality from where they were rescued."

Another resident, K Uma Sankar, said that he remembered foreign doctors visiting the centre to perform ABC. However, the proceedings came to a standstill after some time and now the centre was completely abandoned. The civic body is also on the lookout for land to build an ABC centre at Ondipudur. Till then, the Animal Welfare Board of India member, S K Mittal, has suggested the city corporation to bifurcate the ABC centre at Seranaickenpalayam for PFA Unit-II and HAS to carry out the sterilisation process.

"There is enough space in Seranaickenpalayam's ABC centre and we could accommodate the centre. We are in dire need to carry out the Animal Birth Control and Anti Rabies Vaccinations programme to bring down the stray dog population in Coimbatore," said Kalpna, also the Honorary State animal welfare officer of Tamil Nadu-West.

On the flip side

Mini Vasudevan of HAS told Express that no official had communicated on allowing any organisation to function on the premises of ABC centre in Seranaickenpalayam.

"Though it was suggested by Mittal, no official letter was issued to us though we are its stakeholders. Nevertheless, the garbage management must be done in an effective way in the city limits, as otherwise, it might attract stray dogs," said Mini.



The animal birth control centre | A RAJA CHIDAMBARAM

Walkers, pedestrians led astray by growling canines

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Coimbatore

STRAY dog menace has become a serious concern in the city, as these canines chase every moving vehicle they find on the road.

M Gunasekaran, a 55-year-old building contractor in Peelamedu has been a jogger for past many years, however, street dogs chasing after him has left him with no choice than taking constitutional. It is not just the case with Gunasekaran, but many from his locality are afraid to step out of the house due to the rampant stray dog menace. The presence of stray dogs has created panic among women, children, and old-age people.

"When we jog, the stray dogs chase us," Gunasekaran said, adding that this issue needs to be solved quickly by sterilising the canines.

Since the canines are taking over the streets, there is a growing representation from almost all the 100 wards to carry out the Animal Birth Control (ABC), before the stray dog population swells. Even though there

are several complaints raised by the residents to the civic body no action has been taken so far, allege the residents.

Joint secretary of Tamil Nadu Consumer Protection Organisation V Tamil Selvan claims that there were no proper complaint cell or number nor there are any officials monitoring it. Residents have urged the civic body to carry out sterilisation, he added.

"The two-wheeler and four-wheeler riders face hardship as these stray dogs chase them and sometimes it leads to accidents," he stated.

A resident from ward-54 said, "There are more than 50 stray dogs in our area and most of it might be carrying rabies. It is always a nightmare to walk early mornings or late at night as these dogs might pounce on you. There should be a proper system to handle this issue."

R Raveendran, secretary of Residents Awareness Association of Coimbatore (RAAC) said that they have represented this issue with Corporation Commissioner J Sravan Kumar.



Stray dogs seen in front of Kattoor police station at Gandhipuram in Coimbatore | A RAJA CHIDAMBARAM