

# రేబిన్ నియంత్రణలో తమిళనాడు భేష్

కొరవ్వపేట: ప్రజారోగ్యం, మున్సిపల్ ఎజిసిటీలతో కూడిన దీర్ఘకాలిక సమన్వయ రేబిన్ నియంత్రణ కార్యక్రమాన్ని అమలు చేసిన దేశంలోని ప్రధాన రాష్ట్రాల్లో తమిళనాడు ఒకటని మానవ-జంతు అద్యయన పరిశోధకులు, శాస్త్రవేత్తలు, సంక్షేమ సంస్థల జ్ఞానం తెలిపింది. ఈ మేరకు స్ట్రీట్ డాగ్స్ అండ్ పబ్లిక్ హెల్త్ (ఆర్ పో హెచ్-ఇండియా) పై రీసెర్చ్ ప్రాజెక్టు వివరాలను తెలిపేలా ప్రత్యేక కార్యక్రమం బువనారం రెస్టోలో జరిగింది. ఇందులో యూనివర్సిటీ ఆఫ్ ఎడినబర్గ్ విశ్వవిద్యాలయంలో పారిటీజరల్ ఎకోలాజీ ప్రొఫెసర్, స్ట్రీట్ పర్ ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్ కృతికా శ్రీనివాసునోపాటు ఆపోలో ఆసుపత్రు ఇన్స్టిట్యూట్ డిస్టింక్ట్ సీనియర్ ఇన్స్పెక్టర్లందరూ డాక్టర్ వి.రామసుబ్రహ్మణ్యం మాట్లాడారు. దేశవ్యాప్తంగా జరిపిన సర్వేల్లో అధిక భాగం వీధి కుక్కలపై



**రేబిన్ పై అవగాహన కల్పిస్తున్న పరిశోధకులు కృతిక, డాక్టర్ రామసుబ్రహ్మణ్యం**

ఎంతో జాతిని చూపుతూ సంరక్షిస్తున్నారని తేలిందని అన్నారు. మరి ముఖ్యంగా రెస్టోలోని ప్రజలు కుక్కలను సంరక్షిస్తున్నారని అన్నారు. ఇదిలా ఉండగా రేబిన్ ఆనేది రెస్టోలోని ప్రజలలో ఒక రకమైన అం

దోళన కలిగిస్తున్నట్లు అద్యయనంలో తేలిందని తెలిపారు. డాక్టర్ వి.రామసుబ్రహ్మణ్యం మాట్లాడుతూ ప్రజలు-కుక్కల పరస్పర చర్య, దాని ప్రజారోగ్య ప్రమాదాలపై ప్రజలకు అవగాహన కల్పించడంలో మీడియా కీలక పాత్ర పోషిస్తుందని అభివృద్ధిచేశారు. వీధి కుక్కలు భారతీయ పర్యావరణ వ్యవస్థలో అంతర్భాగంగా ఉన్నాయని అన్నారు. రేబిన్ పై ప్రజలు ఆప్రమత్తంగా ఉండాలని, ఏ దిన్నె జంతువు కలిగినా వెంటనే వైద్యుల సూచనలు తీసుకోవాలని కోరారు. తమిళనాడు రాష్ట్రంలోని కొడైకనాల్ రేబిన్ రహిత ప్రాంతంగా ఉందని, అక్కడ అన్ని కుక్కలకు రేబిన్ వ్యాక్సినేషన్ ఎప్పటికప్పుడు చేస్తున్నారని అన్నారు. రేబిన్ నియంత్రణకు ప్రభుత్వం మరింత పటిష్ట చర్యలు తీసుకోవాలని కోరారు.

**Headline:** Many Chennai residents still have positive impression of street dogs, says study

**Publication:** The Hindu

**Date:** September 19

# Many city residents still have positive impression of stray dogs, says study

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

A majority of Chennai residents display a positive attitude towards stray dogs despite complaints of chasing, barking, biting, etc., as the animals are seen as companions and protectors, research finds. The need for more awareness of rabies and ways to identify signs of the infection was stressed at a conference with mediapersons on Wednesday in Chennai. The discussion was held as part of a series of media interactions to be held across the country.

Krithika Srinivasan, principal investigator of a research project on street dogs and public health (ROH-Indies), said of the 4,600 observations of human-street dog interactions in Chennai, 53.9% of people involved in the study mentioned barking issues, 50.1% spoke of chasing, 39.2% referred to



**Live and let live:** There is a multidimensional attitude towards stray dogs, since over 60% have reported positive interactions, with dogs providing companionship and protection. FILE PHOTO

biting and 15% mentioned rabies. Only 5.1% of the people involved in the research saw absolutely no problems at all with the animals.

## Positive interaction

She said there was a multidimensional attitude towards street dogs – since over 60% have reported that the interactions were positive, with dogs providing protection, especially to women of low-income

groups and pavement dwellers, companionship, and serving as first line of defence against predators.

Ms. Krithika Srinivasan said local bodies must focus on raising awareness and knowledge on preventing conflicts from school level, improve animal birth control measures and administer vaccines annually.

V. Ramasubramanian, an infectious disease specialist, advised people to get themselves checked

immediately in case they get in contact with felines that project abnormal behaviour. “If you get scratched by a pet dog or encounter an usually aggressive dog, it doesn’t necessarily mean it has rabies. However, if a normally docile dog shows signs of aggression and attacks or licks a person, seek medical attention and report the incident to local authorities for the animal to be checked.”

Further, they emphasised upon the media’s role in shaping public opinion about street dogs and the need for balanced reporting promoting vaccination, population control, and responsible waste disposal.

Varda Mehrotra, founder of Samayu, an NGO with Amshuman Dasarathy of Socratus, an organisation for thinking through and solving social and civic issues, and the press were present.

**Headline:** 60% respondents in Chennai say stray dogs not menace

**Publication:** DT Next

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A research study conducted by a professor in collaboration with 2 NGOs highlighted the need for a holistic approach in managing dog bites and prevention of rabies

# ‘STRAY DOGS NOT MENACE, PUBLIC NEEDS AWARENESS’

**CHENNAI:** Stray dog menace has been a public health problem since the pandemic in 2020. Despite several cases of dog bites, including ferocious attacks on children, a study has revealed that not everyone complained about stray dogs. In fact, 60% of the respondents opined that stray dogs offer companionship and protection.

Conducted by a professor from University of Edinburgh, along with two city-based NGOs, Samayu and Socratius, the study was conducted with 4,600 people in Chennai. It revealed that the number of street dogs in Tamil Nadu had dropped from 6.47 lakh (2012) to 4.41 lakh (2019). The cases of rabies had dipped too.

"During the survey, when we asked the respondents about the problems caused by stray dogs, not everybody complained. For instance, street dwellers, especially women, feel safe when stray dogs are around. A few said that the dogs were innocent creatures," said Krithika Srinivasan, Professor of Political Ecology,

University of Edinburgh and principal investigator of a research project on street dogs and public health.

Public debates on street dogs in the city focus more on the conflict and characterised by dog control, neglect of other key measures including creating awareness on bite-and-chase issue, prevention, universal knowledge of and access to appropriate post-bite prophylaxis, and ecological and social strategies for safe cohabitation.

She added that the most common complaints and conflicts regarding stray dogs were chasing, fighting between dogs and barking at night. Around 2% of the respondents agreed on this. On the other hand, at least 60% agreed that stray dogs offer companionship and protection. Also, cleanliness workers have vast knowledge about preventing conflict, but awareness among the general public was quite less.

According to livestock censuses (2012 and 2019) carried out by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GoI, the overall number of street dogs of 1.71 crore in 2012 had reduced to around 1.53 crore in 2019.

Street dog population has declined in most states but increased in 17 states including Maharashtra and Karnataka. But in TN, it has dropped from 6.47 lakh in 2012 to 4.41 lakh in 2019.

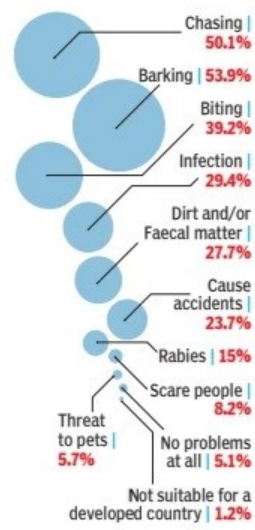
Krithika opined that mass immunisation and animal birth control surgery can prevent at least 70-80% of the population in a year. "The mass dog vaccination (MDV) has proven to be an effective tool, amongst other measures. For example, the Goa government initiated a State Rabies Control Programme in 2015 in partnership with Mission Rabies. It had three elements - MDV, rabies surveillance and education and awareness," she said.

The data between 2014-2022 by Goa government revealed that in the seven years of the implementation of the programme, Goa did not have a single reported case of rabies from 2018-2023.

The public awareness about stray dogs is less in TN, and a holistic approach needs better awareness on understanding daily interactions, caring for these dogs, food waste disposal, vaccination and control of dog population and most importantly, managing dog bites and prevention of rabies.

"As many as 20,000-30,000 rabies deaths are reported in India, which is the highest in the world. The diagnosed mortality rate is 100%. Any unprovoked bite from cats, dogs, horses, cows and bats should be considered as rabies. The bitten area should be washed and immediately given medical attention," said Dr V Ramasubramanian, senior consultant, Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospital.

## PROBLEMS DENIZENS FACE



**Mass immunisation and ABC surgery can prevent at least 70-80% of the population in a year**

- Prof Krithika Srinivasan, senior consultant, Infectious Diseases, Apollo Hospital



Photos: Justin George

**Headline:** Stray dog control needs more than vaccines; birth control surgeries

**Publication:** The Times of India

**Date:** September 19

# Stray dog control needs more than vaccines, birth control surgeries

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**Chennai:** Vaccinating stray dogs and performing birth control surgeries alone are not enough to prevent incidents of chasing, biting or the occasional human deaths due to dog attacks, said Krithika Srinivasan, professor of Political Ecology at Edinburgh University.

In an interaction here on Wednesday, she emphasised that public health initiatives are needed to enhance the positive aspects of human-street dog interactions, which directly and indirectly contribute to human well-being. Socialized street dogs are less likely to be involved in conflicts, she said.



**NEEDED, EMPATHY**

In Srinivasan's view, both human safety and health of dogs are equally important. She argued that stray dogs should not rely on humans for food, as they must coexist with people without becoming dependent. "Do not make them semi-pets," she urged.

She said when animal lovers feed a group of dogs, some residents may object and

complain to civic authorities, labelling the dogs a nuisance. This often results in the removal of dogs, who are then relocated to another area. However, this does not solve the issue, as the vacant space is soon filled by dogs from neighbouring areas, she said.

Supporting this view, professor V Ramasubramanian, senior consultant for infectious diseases at Apollo Hospital, said street dogs have long been an integral part of India's ecosystem. While most interactions between people and street dogs are uneventful, media reports often portray these encounters negatively. He stressed the need for better public awareness about the health aspects of such interactions.

**Headline:** மனிதர்களை நாய்கள் கடிப்பது ஏன்? என்ன செய்தால் கட்டுப்படுத்தலாம்? Public Reaction (Why do dogs bite people? What can be controlled? Public Reaction)

**Publication:** PuthiyathalaimuraiTV (Electronic TV Channel)

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**Link:** <https://youtu.be/DyprjKE1Xwc?t=414>



Headline: Stray dog control needs more than vaccines; birth control surgeries

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Date: September 19

# நாய் கடி தொடர்பான விழிப்புணர்வு அரசுக்கும் பொதுமக்களுக்கும் அவசியம்

**டாக்டர் ராமசுப்பிரமணியன் வலியுறுத்தல்**

சென்னை, செப்.18-

பொதுமக்கள்-நாய் தொடர்பு மற்றும் பொதுக்காதார பரிமாணங்கள் பற்றிய விழிப்புணர்வை உருவாக்குவதில் ஊடங்களின் பங்கு மிகமுகியமானது என்று நோய்தொற்று தடுப்பு நிபுணர் டாக்டர்.வி.ராமசுப்பிரமணியன் கூறினார்.

மனிதர்-நாய் மோதலை தடுக்க அறிவியல் தீர்வுகள்-ஆக்கப்பூர்வமான அணுகுமுறைகள் குறித்து சென்னையில் புதனன்று (செப்.18) மனித-விலங்கு ஆராய்ச்சியாளர்கள், விஞ்ஞானிகள், நல அமைப்புகள் சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற கலந்துரையாடலில் டாக்டர்.வி.ராமசுப்பிரமணியன் பேசுகையில், இந்திய சுற்றுச்சூழல் பின்னணியில் தெருநாய்கள் மனிதர்களின் வாழ்வியலில் ஒருங்கிணைந்த பகுதியாக உள்ளது. மனிதர்-தெருநாய் உறவுகளில் பெரும் பாலானவை சிற்றந்தாக இருக்கிறது.

தெருநாய் மற்றும் வீட்டில் வளர்க்கப்படும் நாய்களால் பொதுமக்கள் தாக்குதலுக்கு உள்ளாவது ஒருசிலநேரங்களில் ஊடகங்களில் மிகைப்படுத்தப்படுவதும் சிலநேரங்களில் கண்டுகொள்ளாதபோக்கும் இருக்கிறது. பொதுவாகவே நாய் பிரியர்கள் தங்களை நாய்கள் கடிக்காவிட்டாலும் ரேபிஸ் தடுப்பு மருந்து (வேக்சின்) எடுத்துக்கொள்வது நல்லது. நாய்களைப் பராமரித்தல், பொதுவெளிகளில் உணவுக்கழிவுகளை அகற்றல், நாய்களின் எண்ணிக்கையைக் கட்டுப்படுத்துதல், நாய் கடித்தலுக்கான தடுப்பு, பாதுகாப்பு அம்சங்கள், ரேபிஸ் தடுப்பு ஆகியவற்றைப்பற்றிய விழிப்புணர்வு பொதுமக்களுக்கும் அரசு நிர்வாகத்திற்கும் தேவைப்படுகிறது என்றார்.



## நாய்-மனிதர்கள் மோதலை தடுக்க முயற்சி

எடின்பர்க் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் அரசியல், கழலியல் - தெருநாய்கள்-பொதுக்காதாரம் பற்றிய ஆராய்ச்சி திட்டத்தின் முதன்மை ஆய்வாளர் கிருத்திகா சீனிவாசன் பேசுகையில், இந்தியா முழுவதும் பயணித்து தெருநாய்களைப்பற்றிய ஒரு ஆய்வு நடத்தியுள்ளோம். தெருநாய்களுடனான மனித உறவு எப்படி இருக்கவேண்டும், நாய்களிடமிருந்து நம்மை பாதுகாத்துக்கொள்வது எப்படி, ரேபிஸ்நோய் தொற்றிலிருந்து மனிதர்களும், நாய்களும் பாதிக்காமல் இருக்க மேற்கொள்ளவேண்டிய நடவடிக்கை என்ன என்பது குறித்து பொது விவாதங்கள் நடத்தி வருகிறோம்.

மனித-நாய் மோதலை தடுப்பது, தவிர்ப்பது மட்டுமே எங்கள் நோக்கமாக உள்ளது. இதுகுறித்து ஊடகங்களுக்கும் அவற்றின் மூலம் பொதுமக்களுக்கு விழிப்புணர்வு ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். தெருநாய்களை கட்டுப்பாடுத்துவதில் அரசு உரிய கவனம் செலுத்தவேண்டும் என்று கூறிய அவர் 2 விழுக்காடு நாய்கள் மட்டுமே பொதுமக்களுக்கு பாதிப்பை ஏற்படுகிறது. மனிதர்களோடு பலநூற்றாண்டுகாலமாக நாய்கள் ஒன்றிணைந்து வாழ்ந்துவருவதால் இதனுடனான மோதலை தவிர்க்கமுடியாது. மோதலை தவிர்ப்பதற்கு நாய்களை அழிப்பது தீர்வாகாது என்றார்.

இந்த கலந்துரையாடலை டாக்டர் அமைப்புகள் இணைந்து நடத்தின. ஸ்டிராஸ்ட் வேல்டு வைடு, சாக்ரடஸ், சாக்ரடஸ் நிர்வாகி அம்கமன் தசாதி சமயு, ரிமேக்கிங் ஒன்ஹெல்த் ஆகிய நிகழ்ச்சியை ஒருங்கிணைத்தார்.

**Headline:** Need for balanced reporting on human-dog conflict stressed

**Publication:** News Today

**Date:** September 19

# Need for balanced reporting on human-dog conflict stressed

NT Bureau

Chennai, Sept 19:

A group of human-animal studies researchers, scientists, and welfare organizations emphasized the importance of balanced media reporting on human-dog interactions in India during a discussion on Wednesday. They noted that while Tamil Nadu has implemented a long-term rabies control program, media often portrays street dogs negatively, skewing public perception.

Krithika Srinivasan, Professor of Political Ecology at the University of Edinburgh, highlighted that public debates tend to focus on the dangers posed by stray dogs, overlooking positive interactions and the benefits of safe cohabita-

tion. She called for increased public health awareness, bite prevention education, and access to appropriate prophylaxis.

Prof. Ramasubramanian MD also stressed the media's role in fostering awareness about the socio-ecological aspects of human-dog relationships, noting that the majority of interactions are uneventful.

The gathering urged the media to avoid extreme portrayals, such as advocating for the eradication of street dogs, and instead focus on constructive, fact-based reporting to encourage coexistence.

A dossier containing data on rabies, dog bites, and conflict management strategies was shared with journalists, aiming to promote more informed discussions on this issue.

**Headline:** Experts stress need for scientific solutions to address human-dog conflict

**Publication:** Dina Mani

**Date:** September 22

## தமிழகத்தில் ரேபீஸ் தடுப்பு திட்டம்: விலங்கு ஆய்வாளர்கள் பாராட்டு

சென்னை, செப். 22: தமிழகத்தில் நடைமுறைப்படுத்தப்பட்டு வரும் ரேபீஸ் ஒழிப்பு நடவடிக்கைகள் நீடித்த செயல் திட்டமாக விளங்கு வதாக விலங்கு ஆய்வாளர்கள் தெரிவித்தனர்.

தெருநாய்க் கடி சம்பவங்கள் மற்றும் ரேபீஸ் கட்டுப்பாடு தொடர்பான விவாதம் சென்னையில் அண்மையில் நடைபெற்றது. பல்வேறு விலங்குகள் நல அமைப்புகள், சமூக அமைப்புகள் சார்பில் நடைபெற்ற இந்த நிகழ்வில் பிரிட்டன், எடின்பரோ பல்கலைக்கழக முதுநிலை பேராசிரியர் டாக்டர் கிருத்திகா ஸ்ரீனிவாசன், நோய்த் தொற்று சிறப்பு சிகிச்சை நிபுணர் வி.ராமசுப்ரமணியன் உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

நிகழ்வில் டாக்டர் கிருத்திகா ஸ்ரீனிவாசன் பேசியதாவது:

தெருநாய்களைப் பற்றிய புரிதலும், விழிப்புணர்வும் சமூகத்தில் போதிய அளவில் இல்லை. சில நேரங்களில் நாய்கள் கடிக்கும் சம்பவங்கள் நிகழும்போது, அது குறித்த ஊடக சித்தரிப்புகள் அனைத்தும் நாய்களுக்கு எதிராக அமைந்துவிடுகின்றன. இதன் காரணமாகவே மனிதர்களுக்கும், நாய்களுக்கும் இடையே வெறுப்புணர்வும், மோதல் போக்கும் நீடிக்கிறது.

தெருநாய் பெருக்கத்தைக் கட்டுப்படுத்துதல், நாய்கள் கடிக்கும் போதும், துரத்தும்போதும் எவ்வாறு செயல்படுவது, நாய்க் கடிக்கு பிந்தைய வழிமுறைகள் போன்றவை குறித்த விழிப்புணர்வு நம்மிடம் இல்லை. அவை மேம்பட்டால் விலங்குகளும், மனிதர்களும் ஒருங்கிணைந்து சமூகத்தில் சமரசமாக வாழ இயலும். தமிழகத்தில் ரேபீஸ் தடுப்பு திட்டம் நீடித்த செயல் திட்டமாக, சிறப்பாக செயல்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது எனத் தெரிவித்தார்.



**Headline:** Experts stress need for scientific solutions to address human-dog conflict

**Publication:** Trinity Mirror

**Date:** September 21

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## Experts stress need for scientific solutions to address human-dog conflict

Chennai, Sep 20: Tamil Nadu is among the states in India to have implemented a long-term coordinated rabies control programme involving public health and municipal agencies, a group of human-animal studies researchers, scientists, and welfare organizations said during a discussion on Wednesday.

However, like elsewhere in the country, there are several instances of media organizations portraying cases of dog bites without

providing factual context on human-dog conflicts, thus skewing public perception against stray dogs.

“Public health initiatives are also needed to strengthen positive dimensions of people-street dog interactions, as these contribute to human well-being directly as well as indirectly, as socialized street dogs are less likely to be involved in conflict,” said Krithika Srinivasan, Professor of Political Ecology at the

University of Edinburgh and Principal Investigator of a research project on street dogs and public health (ROH-Indies).

Addressing the media, Prof. Ramasubramanian MD emphasized the critical role of the media in building public awareness about people-dog interaction and its public health dimensions. “Street dogs have been an integral part of the background of the Indian ecosystem. Even though the majority of the people-

street dog interactions are uneventful, periodic media reports adversely portray these interactions. A better awareness is essential about the public health aspects of such interactions. A holistic approach needs better awareness on managing daily interactions, caring for these dogs, food waste disposal in society, vaccination and control of dog population and most importantly managing dog bites and prevention of rabies.”

**Headline:** Paws and reflect

**Publication:** The New Indian Express

**Date:** September 24

**Link:** <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2024/Sep/24/paws-and-reflect>

# PAWS & REFLECT

As the street dog-human conflict increases in the city, Krithika Srinivasan of the ROH-Indies project shares insights on coexistence

AASHNA REDDY

**S**TREET dogs are regular part of urban life in many Indian cities, including Chennai. While interactions with these animals are mostly uneventful, increasing attention is paid to the public health concerns tied to rabies, bites, and occasional conflicts. Chennai once tried to control street dogs by putting them down, but today, with vaccination and birth control, there's a better way. While these dogs deserve our care, they also need to learn to fend for themselves.

Krithika Srinivasan, professor of Political Ecology, University of Edinburgh, and the principal investigator of ROH-Indies, a research project that seeks to advance the understanding of people-dog relations, shares insights into how Chennaiites perceive street dogs, the nature of conflicts, and the complexities involved in managing these interactions.

### Excerpts

■ **In your research, what are the key factors that shape how people perceive street dogs?**

What we've found in Chennai, where we've done the most research over time, as well as in other parts of the country, is that on an everyday basis, the bulk of interactions between people and street dogs are uneventful. People generally neither like nor



dislike dogs and often don't think about them much. When we started this research 15-16 years ago, people were puzzled as to why we would even carry out a study on street dogs, because they didn't see it as an issue. This has changed recently in part due to the public attention these issues have been getting.

For the most part, interactions and attitudes remain neutral. Conflict is just one aspect of human-dog interactions. Public health discussions often focus on rabies because, though rare, the fatality rate is almost 100%. It's preventable if the necessary action is taken, but without intervention, it's fatal.

However, other forms of conflict have gained public attention in recent years — especially in media and court cases. People tend to focus on serious attacks that result in mauling or deaths, though these are rare. When we speak to people in everyday set-

tings, the most common complaints are about chasing and nuisance related to barking. Serious incidents, while rare, dominate public platforms.

■ **Despite these conflicts, your research mentions that many people also provide care for street dogs.**

Yes, in our research, we found that a large proportion of people have provided care to street dogs at some point — over 60% of our representative sample of people in Chennai, for example. But when we talk about care, we don't mean organised or systematic care. It's more casual, like giving leftovers, or providing water, or shelter during extreme weather. This care is not necessarily from people who identify as animal activists but from ordinary citizens. These acts often go unrecognised, but they are more common than the conflicts people hear about on public platforms. Interestingly, the same person

who cares for a dog can also view the dog as a nuisance. For example, they may feed a dog, but also complain about barking or chasing. People often hold multiple attitudes toward street dogs — both positive and negative — which leads to the complex relationship we see.

■ **What conditions tend to lead to the conflict?**

Several factors contribute to conflicts. First, just like people, dogs have individual personalities, and their behaviour varies. For example, territorial behaviour often leads to conflict, especially when dogs become possessive over a person who regularly feeds them. Environmental conditions also play a role. Piles of waste can attract dogs, and territorial disputes between dogs can escalate into conflict with people. The majority of interactions are peaceful, but media attention tends to skew public perception.

■ **How does waste management play into this issue?**

Waste management is a crucial factor. Even though door-to-door waste collection is supposed to be the norm in Chennai, we still see people leaving garbage bags outside their homes, sometimes the night before collection. This leads to garbage being scattered, either by dogs or crows, and creates conditions for conflict. If people followed proper waste disposal practices, it could significantly reduce the number of conflicts between street dogs and people.

■ **What strategies are most effective to manage street**

**dog population?**

The most effective strategies are animal birth control (ABC) and anti-rabies vaccination (ARV) programmes. In Tamil Nadu, the street dog population has decreased significantly from 6,47,798 in 2012 to 4,41,208 in 2019. These programmes not only reduce the number of dogs but also help prevent aggressive behaviours related to mating or protecting puppies. Relocating or culling dogs, on the other hand, is counterproductive. Stable, vaccinated dog populations are far more manageable and lead to fewer conflicts over time.

■ **How can behaviours like barking or chasing be addressed?**

Proper environmental management plays a key role in addressing nuisance behaviours. For example, reducing garbage piles in neighbourhoods would prevent dogs from gathering and becoming territorial. Pub-



lic awareness campaigns are also important. People need to understand how to behave around street dogs — for instance, not running when chased by a dog, as this often escalates the situation.

■ **How can public education about safe interactions with street dogs be improved?**

Just like we teach road safety, we need to educate people about dog behaviour and how to prevent conflicts. NGOs and policymakers should also focus on bite prevention and first aid, such as proper wound cleaning after a bite. While dog control programmes are important, they won't solve the issue on their own — education and awareness are equally necessary.

■ **What should be the focus of future public health and urban policy efforts to better manage human-street-dog interactions?**

Firstly, different problems require different solutions. Secondly, the solutions and public health efforts should go beyond just controlling dog populations. Policies need to address the environmental and social factors that lead to conflict. Removal of dogs, whether by relocation or culling, only makes the problem worse because new, unvaccinated dogs move into the area.

Instead, stabilising dog populations through ABC and ARV, along with environmental management and public awareness, is the way forward.

## Other media coverage:

**Headline:** Researchers and Public Health Experts Highlight Need for Scientific Solutions and Balanced Approaches to Address Human-Dog Conflict in India

**Publication:** Valgan TV

**Date:** September 19

**Link:** <https://valgan.tv/2024/09/19/researchers-and-public-health-experts-highlight-need-for-scientific-solutions-and-balanced-approaches-to-address-human-dog-conflict-in-india/>

**Headline:** Researchers and Public Health Experts Highlight Need for Scientific Solutions and Balanced Approaches to Address Human-Dog Conflict in India

**Publication:** DT News TV

**Date:** September 19

**Link:** <https://dtnewstv.com/?p=31904>

**Headline:** Researchers and Public Health Experts Highlight Need for Scientific Solutions and Balanced Approaches to Address Human-Dog Conflict in India

**Publication:** News 360

**Date:** September 19

**Link:** <http://www.news360d.com/researchers-and-public-health-experts-highlight-need-for-scientific-solutions-and-balanced-approaches-to-address-human-dog-conflict-in-india/>

**Headline:** Researchers and Public Health Experts Highlight Need for Scientific Solutions and Balanced Approaches to Address Human-Dog Conflict in India

**Publication:** VR News Chennai

**Date:** September 19

**Link:** <https://vrnewschennai.com/researchers-and-public-health-experts-highlight-need-for-scientific-solutions-and-balanced-approaches-to-address-human-dog-conflict-in-india/>

**Headline:** Researchers and Public Health Experts Highlight Need for Scientific Solutions and Balanced Approaches to Address Human-Dog Conflict in India

**Publication:** NT Media

**Date:** September 19

**Link:** <https://ntmedia.in/dog-conflict-in-india/>

**Headline:** Researchers and Public Health Experts Highlight Need for Scientific Solutions and Balanced Approaches to Address Human-Dog Conflict in India

**Publication:** Talk 4 City

**Date:** September 19

**Link:** <https://talk4city.in/researchers-and-public-health-experts-highlight-need-for-scientific-solutions-and-balanced-approaches-to-address-human-dog-conflict-in-india/>

**Headline:** Researchers and Public Health Experts Highlight Need for Scientific Solutions and Balanced Approaches to Address Human-Dog Conflict in India

**Publication:** Nxt Pix

**Date:** September 19

**Link:** <http://www.nxtpix.com/researchers-and-public-health-experts-highlight-need-for-scientific-solutions-and-balanced-approaches-to-address-human-dog-conflict-in-india/>