

Strategic Feeding: An approach that protects street dogs

Strategic feeding supports street dogs in need while minimizing dependency, conflict, and harm. By adopting careful feeding practices, we can ensure the well-being of dogs and peaceful coexistence with the community.

- 1. Feed Only When Necessary**
Only feed sick, old, lactating, or starving dogs and orphaned animals. Healthy dogs forage independently. Foraging is important for a dog's well-being.
- 2. Do not feed regularly**
Feed occasionally and in small quantities to prevent dependency and preserve natural foraging skills.
- 3. Prevent Congregation**
Spread feeding locations to reduce fights and community complaints. Stop feeding temporarily if dogs congregate or show undesired behaviours like chasing/barking.
- 4. Practice invisible feeding**
Feed during quiet hours and away from busy areas to avoid complaints.
- 5. Clean Up**
Remove leftovers and waste to maintain cleanliness and community goodwill.
- 6. Reduce dependency gradually**
If dogs rely on regular feeding, taper quantity and frequency while monitoring their foraging and health.
- 7. Avoid treating street dogs like pets**
Pet-like treatment of street dogs leads to conflict behaviours and has negative consequences for them.
- 8. Adapt as needed**
Pause or modify feeding and completely ignore street dogs if they start chasing, barking or mobbing people.
- 9. Engage with the community**
Address concerns collaboratively to resolve conflicts.
- 10. Vaccinate regularly**
Ensure dogs are vaccinated regularly, particularly against rabies.
- 11. Ensure access to fresh water**
Providing drinking water is more important than providing food to street dogs.
- 12. Do not rely solely on current laws about feeding and street dogs**
Laws protecting street dogs can be challenged. Ensuring community goodwill enables dogs' safety and acceptance.