Preventing street dog feeding conflicts: Some guidelines





1. Please do not feed healthy street dogs complete or full meals regularly.

Feed occasionally and/or in small quantities. Reserve regular feeding of complete meals for sick, old, lactating, or starving dogs and orphaned animals.

Why? 1) To prevent over-attachment and dependency on specific people and locations; 2) To preserve key street skills related to foraging and coexistence with a wide range of people. Foraging is important for a dog's well-being.

2. Prevent crowding, chasing, & pet-like aggression.

Spread out feeding locations. Avoid feeding daily in the same spot. Avoid feeding or being affectionate in the same location as where the dog(s) take shelter.

Why? To ensure that the availability of food, shelter and affection is not concentrated in particular locations.

3. Stop feeding temporarily if dogs congregate or show undesired behaviours like chasing/barking.

Avoid and completely ignore dogs that start chasing, barking at or nipping people and vehicles.

Why? To stop undesired behaviours. Do modify feeding practices to ensure that undesired behaviours do not resume.

4. Reduce dependency gradually.

If dogs rely on regular feeding, taper quantity and frequency while monitoring their foraging and health.

Why? To restore their ability to secure food, shelter and affection from a wide range of people and locations.

5. Avoid treating street dogs like pets.

Why? Pet-like treatment of street dogs leads to conflict behaviours and has negative consequences for them because of retaliatory violence. Street dogs can be very affectionate and friendly towards some people and aggressive towards those they perceive as strangers or those that are uncomfortable around or scared of dogs.

6. Engage with the community.

Do address concerns collaboratively to resolve conflicts.

7. Do not rely solely on current laws about feeding and caring for street dogs.

Laws protecting street dogs can be challenged. Ensuring community goodwill enables dogs' safety and acceptance.

For more information contact: ROH-Indies, University of Edinburgh: www.rohindies.org