

## UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF STRAY DOGS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

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### ABSTRACT

The effects of stray dogs on Coimbatore City's public health and safety are explored in this study. It aims to comprehend the community's major issues, the efficiency of governmental control measures, and the function of public involvement in problem-solving. Data on public concerns, awareness, and community involvement were gathered using an organized approach. The results show that although government programs like the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program are in place, awareness and involvement are still low. To effectively manage the number of stray dogs, the study emphasizes the necessity of more community involvement, improved public cooperation, and stricter enforcement of the law.

### KEYWORDS

Stray dog population, Public Safety, Animal Birth Control, Policy implementation, Community involvement.

### INTRODUCTION

Dogs that have been lost or abandoned and are now living without a home or adequate care are identified as stray dogs, and they have become a significant issue in both urban and rural areas. Due to unchecked breeding, the number of stray dogs is increasing quickly, and many of them are not vaccinated or sterilized. Numerous hazards are associated with their presence, such as the potential for dog bites, traffic accidents, the disruption of local ecosystems, and the spread of infectious diseases like rabies. Governments have responded to these problems by enacting a variety of measures, such as vaccination campaigns and sterilization programs, to address the problems caused by stray dogs. Furthermore, effective management and reduction of the stray dog population depend heavily on active community participation, which includes reporting stray dog hotspots, lending support to nearby shelters, and raising awareness.

### STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

An increasing number of stray dogs is causing a crisis in Coimbatore City. Few dogs have been successfully sterilized despite government initiatives like sterilization programs, which leaves a reasonably large population control gap. Dog-related incidents, such as bites and traffic accidents, have increased as a result, endangering public safety. Furthermore, although numerous NGOs actively participate in rescue efforts,

immunization campaigns, awareness campaigns, and adoption initiatives, they encounter difficulties because of their limited funding and capabilities.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1.To identify and analyze the key problems faced by the people due to the presence of stray dogs.
- 2.To evaluate the effectiveness of government initiatives aimed at controlling stray dog population.
- 3.To assess the role of community involvement in addressing stray dog issues.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is the scientific and systematic process employed to carry out research studies. It includes the principles, procedures, and techniques utilized to gather, analyse and interpret data to solve research problems or test hypotheses. This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the study on the topic of Understanding the impact of stray dogs on public health and government initiatives for control and management, is presented based on a sample of 100 respondents. The collected data are classified and tabulated. The data was analysed using the following statistical tools:

- Simple percentage
- Chi-square
- ANOVA

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Rajathi Sabareeshwaran Rakesh Kumar Meenakshi Padma Shree (2024)** The "Paw-some Connection" project aims to facilitate donations for animal welfare and encourage pet adoption. It offers an easy-to-use platform that links stray animals up for adoption with prospective pet parents. Through the initiative's user-friendly adoption portal, consumers can look through the profiles of available pets, read about their backstories, and locate the ideal fit for their home. The project facilitates adoption as well as donations, enabling users to support animal welfare groups and guaranteeing that rescued animals receive the care and rehabilitation they need. "Paw some Connection" uses social media and technology to engage the community, improve the lives of people and pets, and increase awareness of animal welfare.

**Amrutha Chandran Sreeshma(2024)** According to a study assessing the adoption of an animal birth control (ABC) program in Kozhikode, India, the program reduced the number of human rabies cases, but it had serious drawbacks because of a lack of staff and funding. Sterilization, vaccination, pet dog licensing, and microchipping services are all part of the program, which aims to reduce the number of stray dogs and shield people from rabies. It hasn't been very successful in lowering the number of stray dogs, though, and the intended outcomes haven't been entirely realized. To increase the program's efficacy and reach, the study recommends extending it to rural areas. The program has demonstrated some success in addressing rabies-related health issues in urban areas, despite obstacles.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 1. Table Showing how the local population perceives the stray dog population in Coimbatore

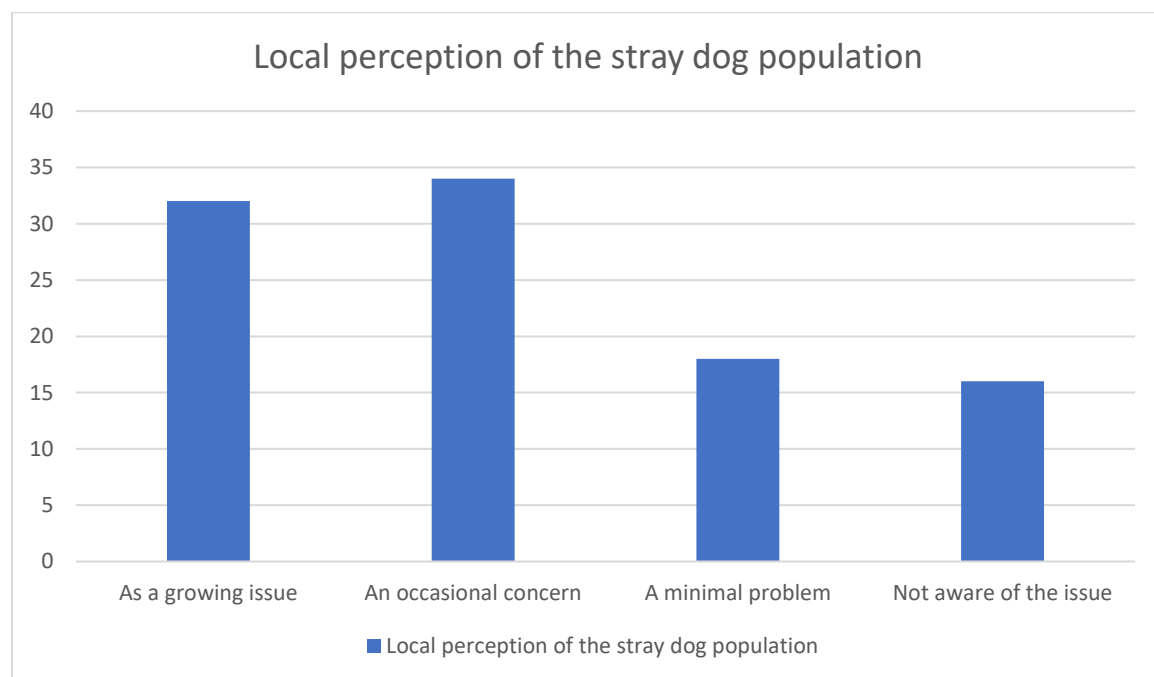
Table 1

S.NO	LOCAL PERCEPTION OF THE STRAY DOG POPULATION	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	As a growing issue	32	32
2	An occasional concern	34	34
3	A minimal problem	18	18
4	Not aware of the issue	16	16

Source: Primary Data

## INTERPRETATION

The table (4.1) shows that 34% of respondents view the stray dog population in Coimbatore as an occasional concern, while 32% consider it a growing issue. 18% see it as a minimal problem, and 16% are unaware of the issue, indicating varied perceptions among the local population.



## 2.FREQUENCY OF ENCOUNTERING STRAY DOGS AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF BEING ATTACKED

To find out the association between the frequency of encountering stray dogs and the experience of being bitten/attacked by a stray dog, the following null hypothesis was formulated and tested.

**Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>):** There is no significant association between the frequency of encountering stray dogs and the likelihood of being bitten or attacked.

TABLE 2

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Sig. (2-tailed)
Pearson Chi-Square	23.83	9	.005
Likelihood Ratio	22.77	9	.007
Linear-by-Linear Association	11.05	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	100		

Source: Primary data

p Value  $\leq 0.05$  Significant; p Value  $> 0.05$  Not Significant

### INTERPRETATION

From the above table, it is clear that the null hypothesis is rejected (Significant). The chi-square value of **23.83** with a significance level of **0.005** indicates a statistically significant association between the frequency of encounters and the likelihood of being attacked.

### 3.AWARENESS VS. SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT EFFORTS

To find out the dependency of the level of awareness and its impact on the satisfaction level about government efforts, the following null hypothesis was formulated and tested.

**Hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>):** Awareness of initiatives impacts satisfaction with government efforts.

TABLE 3

### ANOVA

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
q10 Between Groups	1.48	1	1.48	1.31	.255
Within Groups	110.31	98	1.13		
Total	111.79	99			

Source:

Primary data

p Value  $\leq 0.05$  Significant; p Value  $> 0.05$  Not Significant

### INTERPRETATION

From the above table, it can be inferred that the independent variable does not significantly impact satisfaction with government efforts (**p = 0.255, F = 1.31**), as the p-value is greater than 0.05. This indicates that differences between groups are likely due to random variation rather than a real effect. The independent variable does not have a statistically significant influence on satisfaction levels.

### FINDINGS

#### SIMPLE PERCENTAGE

Majority (63%) of the respondents frequently encounter stray dogs

Most (40%) of the respondents perceive stray dog's behaviour as neutral

Majority (56%) of the respondents reported having been bitten by stray dogs and receiving immediate medical care following the incident

Majority (60%) of the respondents feel the government isn't doing enough to address the stray dog problem

Majority (54%) of respondents are aware of government initiatives to control the stray dog population

Most (36%) of the respondents are neutral about the government's efforts in managing stray dog problems

Most (46%) of the respondents believe the number of stray dogs in Coimbatore has increased over the past year despite government efforts

Most (34%) of the respondents view the stray dog population in Coimbatore as an occasional concern

Most (33%) of the respondents are open to adopting a stray dog in the future

### **CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS**

The chi-square analysis has shown a significant association between the frequency of encountering stray dogs and the likelihood of being bitten or attacked. This indicates that individuals who frequently come across stray dogs are at a higher risk of being attacked. These findings emphasize the need for effective stray dog management strategies to reduce encounters and enhance public safety.

The chi-square analysis has shown a significant association between people's perception of government action on stray dog management and their satisfaction with the government's efforts. This indicates that individuals' satisfaction levels are strongly influenced by how they perceive the government's actions in managing stray dogs. The findings suggest that improving public perception of government efforts can enhance overall satisfaction with stray dog management initiatives.

The chi-square analysis has shown no significant association between experiencing a stray dog bite and the willingness to adopt a stray dog. This indicates that individuals who a stray dog has bitten are not significantly less likely to adopt a stray dog. The findings suggest that personal experiences with stray dog bites may not strongly influence one's willingness to adopt.

The chi-square analysis has shown a significant association between the perceived general attitude of stray dogs (aggressive, neutral, friendly) and how people perceive the stray dog issue in their locality. This indicates that individuals who perceive stray dogs as aggressive are more likely to view stray dogs as a growing issue in their locality. The findings suggest that the perception of stray dog behaviour influences public concern about the stray dog problem.

The chi-square analysis has shown no significant association between people's perception of government efforts and their observation of changes in the stray dog population. This indicates that individuals' views on government actions do not strongly influence their perception of whether the stray dog population has increased or decreased. The findings suggest that public perception of government efforts may not directly correlate with observed changes in stray dog numbers.

### **ANOVA**

The analysis shows that awareness of government initiatives does not significantly impact satisfaction with government efforts. As the p-value is greater than 0.05, this suggests that the differences in satisfaction levels are likely due to random variation rather than a meaningful effect. The findings indicate that awareness of

government actions does not have a statistically significant influence on public satisfaction with those efforts.

The analysis indicates that the perception of an increase in the stray dog population does not significantly impact satisfaction with the government. Since the p-value is much greater than 0.05, we fail to reject the null hypothesis, suggesting that there is no statistically significant difference in satisfaction between those who perceive an increase in stray dogs and those who do not. Other factors may be influencing satisfaction levels with government actions.

The analysis shows that willingness to adopt a stray dog does not significantly correlate with the perception of stray dogs as friendlier. Since the p-value is greater than 0.05, we fail to reject the null hypothesis, indicating that there is no statistically significant relationship between the willingness to adopt and the perception of stray dogs as friendlier. Other factors may be influencing people's willingness to adopt.

## SUGGESTIONS

It is recommended to expand sterilization programs to effectively control the stray dog population and prevent further increase.

The government should enforce stricter regulations on pet abandonment and implement more rigorous rules to ensure responsible care and reduce the number of stray dogs.

People should actively participate in local initiatives for stray dog management, as community involvement plays a crucial role. Additionally, promoting large-scale adoption of stray dogs can help control their population and improve their welfare.

## CONCLUSION

The study draws attention to the problems that stray dogs in Coimbatore present, such as the spread of disease, hazards to road safety, and public insecurity. Even though government programs like vaccination and sterilization have advanced, there are still implementation, resource, and enforcement gaps. Stronger coordination between the public, NGOs, and authorities is necessary for effective management. Awareness campaigns and responsible pet ownership are also necessary. To lessen the negative effects of stray dogs on public health, a proactive, coordinated strategy that includes improved resource management and policy enforcement is necessary.

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