

Ethical Frameworks and Best Practices in Stray Dog Management

Ethical Frameworks Guiding Stray Dog Management

1. **Utilitarian Ethics:**

This ethical approach aims for the **greatest good** for the most people and animals. By focusing on **sterilization** and **vaccination**, we reduce the risk of diseases like rabies and prevent unnecessary cruelty, benefiting both society and animals. The ultimate goal is to prioritize **human health** and **animal welfare** simultaneously.

2. **Deontology:**

Deontological ethics emphasizes a **moral duty** to protect both human and animal life. Society and the State have an inherent responsibility to uphold the welfare of animals, ensuring that their rights are respected and balanced against the needs of the community.

3. **Rights-Based Ethics:**

Stray dogs are seen as **having inherent rights**, similar to humans. Ethical action, in this framework, involves **protecting** those rights through **humane treatment**, ensuring their **health and safety**, and guarding them against cruelty or harm.

4. **Cultural Ethos of Ahimsa:**

Rooted in Indian traditions, **Ahimsa** (non-violence) advocates compassion and coexistence with all living beings. In stray dog management, this means fostering a **humane and ethical** approach that encourages kindness and **respect** for animals.

5. **One Health Approach:**

The **One Health** model emphasizes the **interconnectedness** of human, animal, and environmental health. Ethical stewardship in this context requires managing stray dog populations while ensuring the **health and safety** of both animals and humans. A holistic approach benefits society as a whole.

6. **Ecological Ethics:**

Stray dogs are part of the **urban ecosystem**, influencing biodiversity. Ethical management under this framework focuses on **coexistence** and ensuring that stray dog populations don't disrupt the natural balance of urban spaces.

7. **Community Involvement and Social Justice:**

Effective stray dog management involves **community engagement**. It is important to include local communities in sterilization and adoption programs,

fostering a sense of **responsibility** and ensuring **equitable** solutions for all involved.

8. **Virtue Ethics:**

Virtue ethics focuses on cultivating traits like **compassion, kindness, and responsibility** in individuals. This approach encourages citizens to care for animals, promoting a **compassionate environment** for both humans and dogs.

Best Practices in Stray Dog Management

1. **Bengaluru, India:**

Bengaluru's **Animal Birth Control (ABC)** program has resulted in a **10% reduction** in the stray dog population from 2019 to 2023. The increase in the neutering rate (20%) highlights the success of **sterilization** in managing stray dog populations humanely.

2. **Netherlands:**

The **CNVR (Collect, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return)** program helped the country achieve a "**stray dog-free**" status. This program emphasizes **community adoption**, demonstrating how a **structured, ethical approach** can solve the stray dog issue in urban areas.

3. **Istanbul, Turkey:**

Istanbul runs an extensive **Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR)** program, where sterilized dogs are **ear-tagged**. This approach has drastically reduced **rabies outbreaks**, stabilized the street dog population, and fostered peaceful coexistence between humans and dogs.

4. **Bangkok, Thailand:**

Bangkok replaced **mass culling** with the **TNVR method**, which helped eliminate rabies outbreaks and significantly reduced **community aggression** toward dogs, leading to a more harmonious relationship between people and animals.

5. **Mumbai, India:**

Mumbai's **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** promotes sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs, focusing on responsible **adoption** and community involvement to reduce the street dog population and improve public health.

6. **Colombia:**

Bogotá's animal welfare program integrates **sterilization, vaccination, and rehabilitation** for stray dogs. The program encourages **foster care** and adoption, which has successfully reduced the stray dog population and improved community attitudes.

7. **San Francisco, USA:**

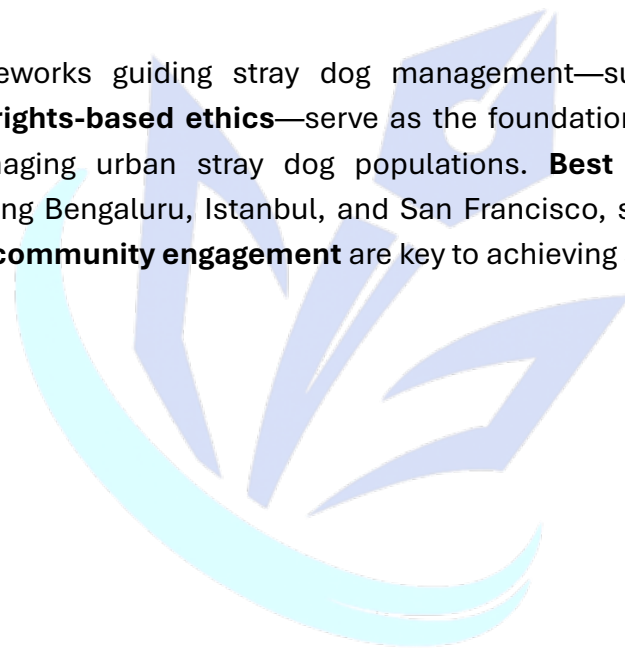
San Francisco runs community-based programs offering **free spay/neuter services** to low-income areas, helping to reduce the stray dog population while fostering **responsible pet ownership**.

8. **Sri Lanka:**

Sri Lanka's **National Rabies Control Program** combines sterilization and vaccination efforts to reduce the stray dog population and curb rabies. The program relies heavily on **community participation** and **education**.

Conclusion

The ethical frameworks guiding stray dog management—such as **utilitarianism**, **deontology**, and **rights-based ethics**—serve as the foundation for humane, effective solutions to managing urban stray dog populations. **Best practices** from cities worldwide, including Bengaluru, Istanbul, and San Francisco, show that **sterilization**, **vaccination**, and **community engagement** are key to achieving success.



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