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## Prayer for the stray dog

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Waste accumulation is the root cause for street dog menace.— File Photo  
*Animal birth control and waste management is a more humane way of tackling stray dog menace, say animal lovers*

The recent decision of the Kerala State Government to cull dangerous street dogs has triggered off a discussion among the animal lovers in the city.

Mini Vasudevan of Humane Animal Society (HAS) says that culling will only create more problems. “If the number of dogs in an area is reduced, there will be more garbage that will attract other dogs from the neighbourhood. And these dogs may be more aggressive.”

City-based film maker Vijay Anand, whose short film “Prayer of Stray”, created a buzz in the social media, also says that killing is hardly a solution. “I am not calling myself an animal lover, but I think all of us must empathise with the animals,” says the filmmaker.

Prayer of Stray is a musical, based on a poem by the same name written 35 years ago by Bev Davenport. The video features humans enacting the role of dogs and it delves into their emotional lives. Says Vijay Anand. “I have seen dogs being run over by cars. During Deepavali, children throw crackers at them.”

The root cause for street dog menace is waste accumulation, says Mini. “We must own responsibility for that.” Vaccination, sterilisation and waste management are the main solutions, she says. “If you sterilise them, their aggression will come down. Animal birth control and waste management should go hand-in-hand.”

Coimbatore has been proactive in tackling the issue, says Mini. The Corporation signed an agreement with People For Animals and HAS, to conduct Animal Birth Control drives in 2006.

But, the support has not been consistent, complains Mini. “There is a crunch of funds. We have to pay the staff and look after the maintenance. We end up spending from our pockets. Moreover, the Corporation should set up more centres. As of now, there are just two centres, us and PFA, to take care of the 100 ward zones. There should be more centres in proportion to the number of wards.”