

b) Even by amending bye-laws or regulations or otherwise, such a 'ban' cannot be put into place since it is illegal, and does not have the sanction of law. In fact, in trying to 'ban' pets, or limit their number, you interfere with a fundamental freedom guaranteed to the citizens of India, i.e. the freedom to choose the life they wish to live, which includes facets such as living with or without companion animals.

c) If the residents that have pets are not violating any municipal or other laws, you cannot object. The general body cannot frame or amend bye-laws that are at variance with the laws of the country. Even by a complete majority, a general body cannot adopt an illegality. Please remember, you do not have the right to legislate, and 'lay down law' for residents, and apartment owners or even tenants.

**Use of LIFTS by pets :**

d) There is a court ruling to the effect that pets cannot be disallowed from the use of lifts ; and no charges can be imposed either, by housing societies for the use of lifts by pets. In fact, it was widely reported in the news that the concerned court had ruled that "Dogs are family, can use lifts for free". Kindly ensure that this sort of restriction is not therefore imposed – neither a ban, nor any special charges for the use of lifts by pets.

**Use of PARKS by pets :**

e) Banning pets from gardens or parks, is short-sighted. Firstly, you may or may not own the garden or park in question. It may be an MCD or DDA park, or belong to any other organization. Secondly, pets that are not properly exercised may show aggression in frustration ; and that, surely, cannot contribute to the benefit of the residents. It may be better to fix timings when pets can be walked without inconvenience to other residents. These timings can then be intimated to the general body.

**Use of leashes/muzzles by pet owners, defecation by pets in community premises, imposition of fines and other similar measures :**

f) You can request pet owners to keep their pets on leash, when walking them in common areas. You cannot however ask for muzzles as muzzles are illegal for sustained use as dogs die through overheating. Please remember, the law already provides for penalties for negligent pet owners, which the aggrieved parties can avail of.

g) Local laws or Bye laws can be adopted to make pet poop cleaning compulsory to make cleanliness a responsibility for every citizen.

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