



TODAY'S PAPER

Published: March 21, 2006 00:00 IST | Updated: March 23, 2012 10:00 IST March 21, 2006

Providing a shelter for stray animals



DANGER LURKS: Dogs on roads are often hit by vehicles. - PHOTO: S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Anasuya Menon

Two organisations to set up clinic, helpline

COIMBATORE: With solemn faces and tails tucked between their legs, stray dogs roam about the streets. They feed from overflowing garbage bins and sleep under vehicles parked on the roadsides. They often are pelted with stones, and sometimes even knocked down by speeding vehicles only to lie injured or bleed to death.

Lack of system

The city sorely lacked a system through which stray animals were given care and treatment until a group of compassionate individuals here decided to help the animals.

"Unlike Western nations, the life of an animal is considered unimportant here," says Mini Vasudevan, Trustee of Humane Animal Society (HAS), a nascent venture in the area of animal welfare in Coimbatore.

A similar organisation waiting to spread its wings is HUMAN (Help for Underprivileged Man and Animals). The organisations are planning to join together and set up a shelter. "We have already identified a place in Narasimhanaickenpalayam," says Nalini Shanmugham, Managing Trustee of HUMAN and Secretary of People for Animals (PFA). The shelter is expected to start its activities in two months.

The shelter that these animal welfare groups envisage is one with facilities such as a round-the-clock clinic and helpline. Even a boarding facility for dogs and cats are in the pipeline, says Ms. Mini.

Sensitising public

"We will also sensitise people on being employed at the shelter for handling the animals well." If the Corporation is willing to extend help in terms of medicines and food at subsidised rates and water supply, running the shelter will be easy, she says.

The Trust also plans to rope in corporate sponsors and will accept donations from the public. The PFA in its current shelter accommodates 15 animals. They also promote the 'gift of life' programme. Those who wish to adopt a pup or extend their support to the organisations can contact: 9380533319 / 3094330 / 3097430.