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## ‘Create awareness on animal birth control’

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*Appeals to all pet owners to sterilise their pet dogs*

*More details can be had at [www.hasindia.org](http://www.hasindia.org)*

*Those who come across injured animals or animals that need help, can contact 9367144147 or 9791532266*

COIMBATORE: Humane Animal Society (HAS), a group of like-minded individuals working for the welfare of animals in Coimbatore, has appealed to all pet owners to sterilise their pet dogs.

Speaking to The Hindu, Mini Vasudevan, Managing Trustee of HAS, said there was a need to sensitise the public on the animal birth control (ABC) programme. Most often people allowed their pet dogs to roam around. The animals mate with stray dogs and ultimately led to the increase in the stray dog population.

The organisation had already sterilised over 500 dogs in the last three months. “The programme will not be a success without cooperation from the public,” Ms. Mini said. It was carrying out the programme at a shelter provided by the Coimbatore Corporation at Seeranaickenpalayam. The Corporation had provided the infrastructure in terms of land and met the financial requirements of the surgery and post operative care too. But, unless the public was aware of the ABC programme, the stray dog problem would not subside, Ms. Mini observed.

There were instances in which people refused to let the volunteers of HAS take stray dogs for sterilisation stating that they fed the dog and it was their own.

HAS was also planning to conduct awareness campaigns on the ABC programme. In addition to ABC, it was involved in animal rescue and rehabilitation.

The lack of space for setting up a shelter and unavailability of volunteers were the challenges it faced. “We need more people who are willing to volunteer for the cause of animals,” says Christopher Arvinth, a volunteer for HAS.

The organisation also required a sound financial back up to pay the doctors, and the people helping out to take care of the dogs. It was also hoping that philanthropists or well-wishers would come forward to donate land for setting up a shelter for injured or abandoned animals.

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