

Printed from

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Mongrels find homes at adoption camps

TNN | Apr 6, 2014, 12.01 AM IST

A *nimal lovers in the city sure seem to have a reason to rejoice as the city is gradually seeing a good reception to animal adoption drives. These adoption camps held in the city are luring animal lovers who are looking at taking home a lovely pet and provide a shelter to them. What's more interesting is that, of late, mongrels that were hitherto not so sought-after among people are also finding homes for themselves.*

Mini Vasudevan, managing trustee of an animal welfare organisation, informs us, "We have been conducting adoption camps right from the society's inception in 2006 but it's in the last two years that the camps are happening on a larger scale. It has become an organized procedure now and is picking up well. We inspect the animals, vaccinate them and provide free of cost sterilization. We also advocate foster care because we believe that animals tend to be happier and healthier when in a home rather than a shelter. Once the camp gets over, we encourage foster care to take back the animals to their respective homes, if they are not adopted. If they are unable to, we take them to our shelter. We visit these pets at regular intervals, give them vaccination and make sure they are healthy." Animal activist Kalpana Vasudevan maintains that adoption camps are a major draw among people. "I have been conducting these camps from 2008. There was a lull in between, but now we are planning to kick-start the series again. I have dogs, cats, horses and goats at my shelter but usually don't give away cats because I believe they need to roam freely. Other animals are given away if I manage to find a good home for them."

SV Geetha Rani, who runs an animal shelter home in the city, says, "I bring home animals that are abandoned, homeless, old and with physical handicaps. When people come to me asking for these animals, I do a thorough checking of their background and give them away if I find them good enough for the pets. Some are put up for adoption in the camp conducted by Mini Vasudevan, of which some find their new homes there."

Interestingly, the demand for mongrels is gradually picking up in the city. "We deal only with country dogs and Indian cats. We encourage and dole out the benefits of having a country dog and a female at that. Mongrels hardly require any maintenance, rarely fall sick and can easily adapt to our environment. Since, they have a diverse gene pool; they are much stronger than pure breeds. We, people in the city, have a huge bias toward the dog's breed- once you convince them that mongrels are good, they are worried about the sex as the majority wants to adopt male dogs. So, we have to tell them again that once you sterilize a female dog, it won't attract male dogs easily and is more robust when compared to its male counterparts. On the other hand, the demand for kittens keeps fluctuating. While in one camp, they are all taken away, in some other, they are hardly in demand. Cats are much more independent than dogs and they do things on their own without any supervision. So, we recommend them as well," says Mini Vasudevan. Echoing her thoughts is Geetha, "Most of the times, people abandon their female dogs. At these camps, we tell them how female dogs are more loveable than the male dogs. We also provide them free sterilization once they are 6-8 months old. After that one need not worry about them having litter."