

Here comes an ambulance for animals

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The next time you see an injured animal on road or a stray dog in distress, all you have to do is call the 'anibulance'. The Humane Animal Society (an animal welfare organization in the city) is all set to launch an animal ambulance service on April 10. A first-of-its-kind initiative in the city, the anibulance will begin its service on the 10th anniversary of the NGO.

"The anibulance will be quite similar to the human ambulance, but exclusive for animals. It will be equipped with all basic emergency facilities- including a stretcher, IV stand and first aid equipment. A vet and assistant will traverse in the anibulance, and will handle emergency cases on the spot. If the animal requires surgery, it will be taken to our shelter in Seeranaickempalayam. The service will be open across the city and all the public has to do is call the NGO," says the managing trustee of HAS, Mini Vasudevan.

According to Mini, the anibulance is a complete non-commercial venture. "The aim is to help stray animals lead a better quality of life and reduce their suffering as much as we can. We will be able to take care of all companion animals like cats, dogs and goats. There will be special bird cages for the winged friends. As far as the bigger animals like cows and horses are concerned that are difficult to be transported, we will be able to provide them emergency relief. Transporting animals can cause them immense amount of stress, which is why it is crucial that the local people step in to help. They need to monitor the progress of the animal and keep us posted about the same, so that we can provide medical relief on time. We are expecting a huge participation from the public for the anibulance to operate smoothly."

The NGO is also planning to conduct an outreach programme across the city to spread awareness about animal welfare. "The problem with animal lovers in Coimbatore is that though most of them want to reach out to the animals, they do not know how to help. The outreach programme is an attempt to bridge that gap. We will be travelling to different parts of the city and its

outskirts every week and spread awareness about crucial things like how to vaccinate the animals. We will be answering all animal-related queries. The service will be free for all the stray animals. However, the public is more than welcome to provide us donations when they call us to provide medical help for their pets (in the form of vaccination fee. A receipt will be provided for the same). We are also conducting an awareness drive to promote adoption of Indian breeds of animals," says Mini.