

Ahmedabad civic body to survey stray dogs

Ritu Sharma
Ahmedabad, January 23

THE AHMEDABAD Municipal Corporation (AMC) has decided to conduct a comprehensive survey of stray dogs even as the data it maintains shows a drop in sterilisation, rise in takers of the rabies vaccine and more cases of dog bites being reported from outside the city limits.

The development comes at a time when the Supreme Court is hearing a case concerning stray dogs.

The last random census of stray dogs in Ahmedabad was done in 2019, around 2.1 lakh stray dogs were recorded in the city limits.

According to an AMC estimate, the city currently has around 1.5 lakh stray dogs.

The AMC has started using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips in stray dogs since January 2025, for which an application has also been developed to record data. The AMC data reveals that RFID chips have been implanted in 6000 stray dogs.

The new survey, 'free roaming street dog survey', will be conducted by an agency to be hired by the Cattle Nuisance Control Department (CNC) of the AMC in all 48 wards within the municipal corporation area limits.

"With the Supreme Court's guideline to relocate stray dogs from public spaces such as education institutes and hospitals to shelters after vaccination, the survey will also create an infrastructure. First we need to have estimates of the stray dog population in each ward, to set up the required in-

fracture," Head of Department (HOD) of AMC's CNC Naren Rajput told *The Indian Express*.

The AMC has invited tenders for choosing an agency to conduct this survey for which the last date is February 13. "We have contacted the major not-for-profit organisations working for animal welfare projects and also declared the terms—like no security deposit and payments in installments against a lump sum payment after completion of the project—that should be helpful for such organisations," AMC said.

The data collected in 2019 was followed by a mass sterilisation programme under which around 1.94 lakh dogs have been neutered.

"With the population being controlled with the sterilisation of 1.94 stray dogs, the number of the process has been reduced to 30-35 dogs per day against 150-170 dogs a day earlier. The focus is now on the vulnerable areas, especially along the Sardar Patel Road (SPR) which have been included in the AMC limits of fate," Naren Rajput said.

"The challenge for the survey agency is to identify those stray dogs that have been sterilised before 2025 and implanted with RFID chips," the official added.

MoHUA panel calls for 'urgent attention'

The High-Level Committee (MoHUA) on stray dogs, constituted by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in one of its reports, has said that the stray dog issue

WHO REQUIRES THE ANTI RABIES VACCINE (ARV)?

- Dog touches any part of the body: No vaccine needed
- If the dog has scratched and bruises bleed: ARV is required
- If the injury is a deep one: ARV with Immunoglobulin. (This can be taken within 24 hours of the attack)
- Even if the pets are fully vaccinated, the person has to take vaccination

Where do you get ARV in Ahmedabad?

23 centres the AMC has issued a list of 23 ARV Centres on their website including many Urban Health Centres (UHCs)/Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and UHCs, where people can get the vaccination. The UHCs and UPHCs are open from 9 am to 5 pm

TEXT BY HEMAMI AGRAWAL (HEMAMI AGRAWAL IS AN INTERN WITH THE INDIAN EXPRESS, AHMEDABAD)



By international standards we have to space out the ARV doses as zero, 3rd, 7th, and 28th day, zero being the day of the first injection. These vaccines are given intradermal, and sometimes intramuscular depending on the kind of wound, while immunoglobulin shots are given near the wound

DR JYOTI DESAI, SUPERINTENDENT AT CHANDKHEDA URBAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

SCOPE OF SURVEY

WARD-WISE total number of 'Free Roaming Street Dogs' in Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation jurisdiction (480 sq km)

TOTAL NUMBER of sterilized male, non-sterilized male, sterilized female, non-sterilized female, pregnant female, lactat-

ing female and sick etc of stray dogs in AMC area (ward wise)

WARD-WISE total number of 'Free Roaming Street Dogs' hav-

ing low body condition scores (skin infection, weak and debilitated, major injuries), which are unfit for sterilization in AMC areas

demands urgent attention for the well-being of both people and animals.

"The rise in dog bite cases from 21.8 lakh in 2022 to 27.5 lakh in 2023 highlights the severity of the problem, despite efforts to neuter dogs, the issue persists as neutered dogs still occupy the streets," the report said.

Attributing the issue mainly to feeding of stray dogs, the report states, "A small percentage of street dogs are fed by NGOs while most rely on solid waste and face starvation. To address this, cities must implement solid waste management and ensure proper disposal of stray dogs. Implementing a zero waste programme could significantly reduce the stray dog population. Additionally,

incentivising, dog adoption and expanding veterinary infrastructure can help manage the situation in cases of severe illness or aggression. Removing such dogs from public spaces is necessary to ensure the safety of the public."

Calling walkers in cities "most vulnerable," especially in Delhi and Ahmedabad, the report states, "With 42 per cent of

the population relying on walking, the presence of 6.2 crore stray dogs, many of which are unhealthy and aggressive, makes streets unsafe, particularly for the elderly women and children. India has the highest number of strays and rabies cases in the world, with cities like Delhi and Ahmedabad having hundreds of thousands of these dogs."

With the spike in dog bite cases, sources said that though there is no shortage in Rabies vaccine, there is shortage of Rabies immunoglobulin which is recommended to be taken for the category III—single or multiple transverse bites or scratches, contamination of mucous membrane with saliva from licks and on broken skin.

Rabies vaccine number rises

Though the AMC is citing the Supreme Court guidelines for the stray dog survey, authorities are not ruling out the increase in dog bite cases in the city.

"From around 5,000-5,500 vaccines given in a month for dog bite cases at the 35 AMC health centres in Ahmedabad three years ago, the number has increased to 7,000-7,500. This spike can be attributed to both increase in dog bites as well as awareness among people. Also, nearly 20-25 per cent of these dog bite cases have been reported from areas outside AMC limits," Naren Rajput from CNC said.

Rajput said that no rabies death cases were reported in Ahmedabad in 2025.

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Ahmedabad stabbing death: HC questions pvt school on lapses

Press Trust of India
Ahmedabad, January 23

THE GUJARAT High Court on Friday questioned a private school on administrative and security lapses after a Class 10 student was stabbed to death, allegedly by a peer on August 19 last year prompted the state government to intervene and take over its management.

The court of Justice Nitzar Desai questioned whether any particular aware of concerns about the school, including the administration of the school, would willingly admit their child to such an institution.

The District Education Officer (DEO) took over the school management after a widespread furore over the stabbing incident.

The school challenged the administrative action, which was held by the court.

The state government appealed to the court to return to the school management against the DEO taking charge, with government pleader G H Vaidya submitting that since mid-December last year, the institution was non-cooperative and had not furnished any document sought by authorities despite repeated requests.

The state also accused the school of collecting fees in cash, adding financial accounts demanded for over a month had still not been produced.

DPA CONTAINER AND CLEAN CARGO TERMINAL LIMITED

Regarding "Splitting & Transfer of Environmental & CRZ Clearance for the Development, Operation & Maintenance of 13" No. Cargos Berth of Deendayal Port Authority at Kandla, Dist. Kutch (Gujarat)"

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the public notice that DPA Container and Clean Cargo Terminal Limited (DCCCL) Regd. office at Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S.G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad-382421, Gujarat, has been accorded Splitting and Transfer of Environmental & CRZ Clearance for the Development, Operation & Maintenance of 13" No. Cargos Berth of Deendayal Port Authority at Kandla, Dist. Kutch (Gujarat). File No. 17-2006-DCCCL dated 21 January, 2026 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Jharkhand, Parayanagan, Bawali, Jharkhand, New Delhi - 110003 (Go). A copy of the above-mentioned clearance letter is available with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Gujarat Pollution Control Board. This may also be seen on the website of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change at <https://parivesh.nic.in/> and on website of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. at <https://www.adaniports.com/> Downloads.

Couple, 'jobless' son attempt suicide in Rajkot

Rajkot: A couple and their 30-year-old unemployed son attempted to end their lives in Rajkot on Friday over inability to pay home loan instalments, a police officer said.

Nileshbhai (55), his wife Chandrikaben (50) and their son Margin consumed pesticide in the early hours of the day, Thorala police inspector NG Vaghela said.

"They rang up an ambulance service after the poison started taking effect and their health became deteriorated. The three were rushed to a civil hospital for treatment. Their condition is stable at present," the official said.

PTI

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