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4 **Free-ranging dogs in the streets:**

5 *foreseeing a multispecies coexistence crisis beyond shortsighted kindness or conflicts*

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8 — **Nishant Kumar** ^{1,2,3,4,5}

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10 ¹ National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru, India

11 ² THINKPAWS Sustainability Research Foundation, Delhi. www.thinkpaws.org

12 ³ Department of Biology, 11a Mansfield Road, University of Oxford, OX1 3SZ.

13 ⁴ Mansfield College, Mansfield Road. University of Oxford. OX1 3TF.

14 ⁵ Dr B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, Lothian Road. Kashmere Gate, Delhi - 110006

15
16
17 **Email:** nishant.kumar@biology.ox.ac.uk | ryu.nishant@gmail.com

18 **Twitter:** @_nishantk | @thinkpawsorg | @delhikites

19 **Mobile:** +91-9953049522 | **Phone:** +918023666001 / 02 / 18 / 19 | **Fax:** 91 80 23636662

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Abstract

Coexistence solutions tout conflict mitigation goals for commensals and wildlife, often ignoring the lived multispecies entanglements. Tropical cities have become battlegrounds of misguided kindness and escalating conflicts with animals. Human niche expansion creates a paradox for free-ranging denizens: abundant food sources from waste, yet unprecedented ecological pressures from infrastructural neglect. Drawing on the case of dogs, I reveal how ritual feeding and emotional responses create ecological traps, harming both animals and people, and warranting ecological foresight-driven planning for inclusive, more-than-human cities.

This analysis gains particular urgency following the Delhi High Court's directive to municipal authorities to submit a comprehensive policy framework by August 6, 2025, for the institutional rehabilitation and phasing out of free-ranging dogs from streets. Given the poorly founded ecological, behavioural and demographic assessments that characterise current urban animal management approaches, the court's expectation for evidence-based Standard Operating Procedures appears overly optimistic.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's capacity to deliver scientifically grounded solutions within this timeline remains questionable without fundamental shifts toward multispecies urban planning that integrates ecological understanding with institutional frameworks. This disconnect between judicial expectations and available knowledge underscores the critical need for research-informed policy development that transcends shortsighted approaches to urban animal coexistence.

Coexistence conundrums surrounding conflicts with non-human animals in shared habitats mediate people–nature connections, a blind spot in nature-based solutions¹ propositions in urban planning. NbS often emphasise climate mitigation goals such as carbon sequestration, while overlooking long-standing, culturally embedded traditions of multispecies coexistence shaped by human-centric ecological niches². In tropical ecosystems, particularly before the rise of modern infrastructure norms, cities were ecologically and culturally co-constructed by humans and a suite of opportunistic species. Conspicuous urban fauna such as dogs, monkeys, and birds — sometimes even wildlife — have long operated within behavioural regimes shaped by human beliefs and practices. These species often perform critical ecological functions, including the safe disposal of organic waste, yet their roles are largely invisible in current NbS frameworks¹. While urban expansion offers abundant foraging opportunities via refuse, it simultaneously induces profound environmental change, restructuring interspecies interactions and exerting novel selection pressures³. This perspective locates an inflexion point in the adaptive responses of nonhuman animals to the human niche, especially pertinent in a world where over 65% of people live in urban areas that occupy less than 4% of Earth’s surface^{4,5}. Using the case of free-ranging dogs — humanity’s oldest nonhuman companion⁶ — I argue for the urgent incorporation of multispecies justice into NbS design, to preempt a deepening coexistence crisis at the intersection of kindness, conflict, and ecological oversight.

The Chaos of Coexistence: Humans and Street Dogs

A recent YouTube video⁷ depicted an incident in Delhi where a woman utilised an app-based motorbike service for a distance of only 180 meters. The rationale for this unusually short journey was her apprehension towards stray dogs in the locality. While the initial reaction to such a scenario might be amusement, it underscores a more pervasive urban problem^{8,9}. Scholars examining human-animal interactions recognise this incident as indicative of a longstanding coexistence challenge^{10–13}. Dogs are one example of this broader issue, and a complex dynamic of affection and aversion^{2,9} is characteristic⁷. Individuals who care for urban fauna, including dogs, monkeys, kites, and pigeons, frequently neglect to consider the protracted ramifications of their actions, particularly concerning aspects of human-nonhuman

coexistence in broader temporal and spatial dimensions². There is a tendency to disregard the inherent consciousness and sentience of animals inhabiting urban environments¹⁴, such as stray dogs. Consequently, population-level processes are significantly impacted by both interspecies and intraspecies interactions^{15,16}. These networks of interactions manifest far-reaching consequences that extend beyond what meets our eyes in streets^{3,17}.

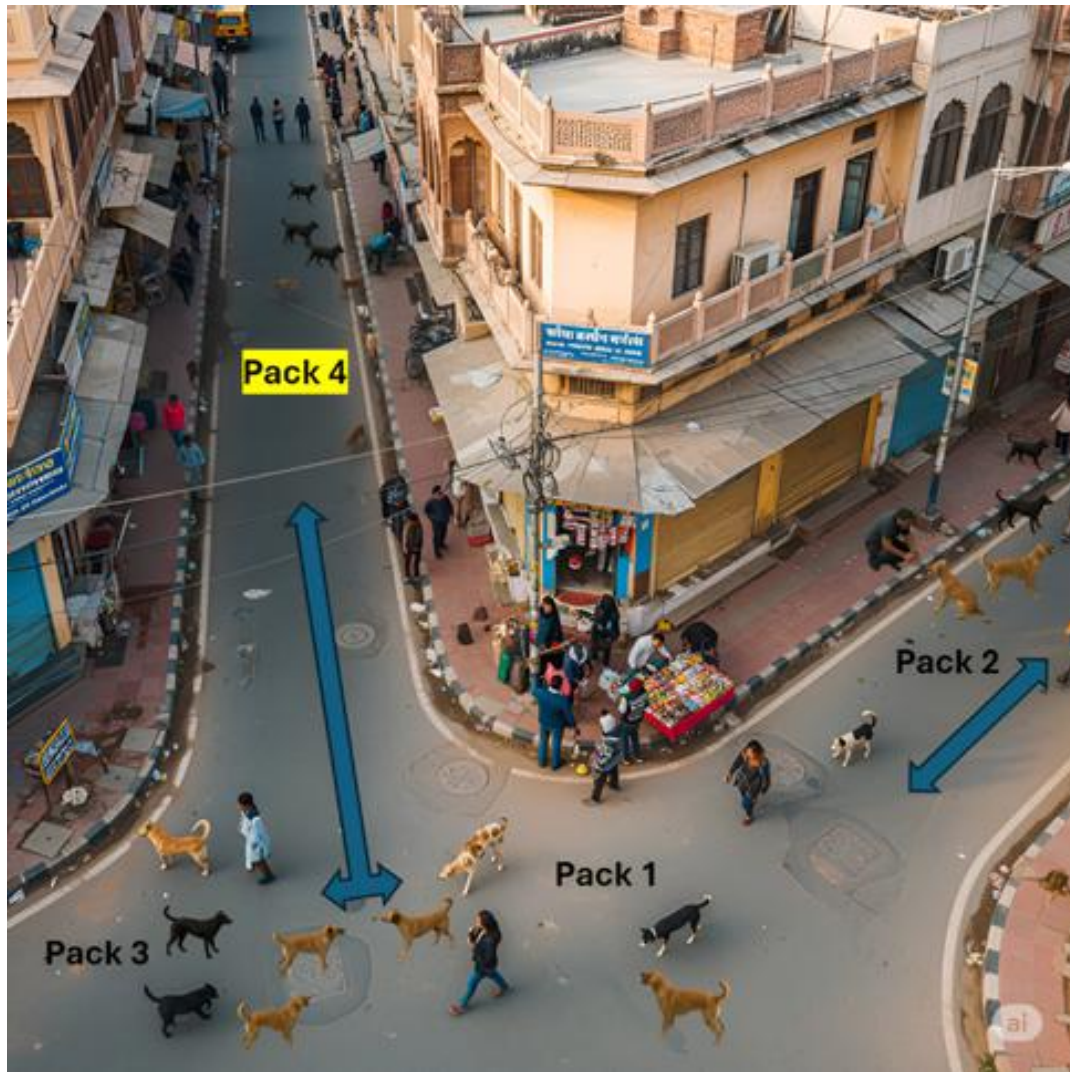
The understanding of dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) is particularly trapped in a peculiar paradox. While we have meticulously dissected breed genetics^{6,18} to explain specific traits in labradors or pugs, we know surprisingly little about the approximately 800 million free-ranging dogs (FRDs)⁸ roaming in tropical landscapes like India. These dogs are not merely “strays” but represent the world’s most abundant carnivores, straddling a blurred line between wild and domesticated. Their lives exist in a constant flux of human dependence and autonomy, simultaneously making them ecological and social keystones and public health hazards¹⁹.

Canine street populations — dogs, jackals, and occasionally wolves and foxes — are integral to the daily regional life of India. They are ubiquitous, resting on pavements, moving through commercial areas, and investigating refuse around trash heaps. To some, they are a familiar aspect of the urban environment; to others, they present a daily inconvenience or hazard. The human-canine dynamic in these contexts is a complex mixture of compassion, cultural practices, and discord^{19–22}. Though many generously provide them food out of compassion or religious obligation, and people frequently interact with them, many others endure hardships similar to the woman in the widely circulated video, leading them to take extreme measures to avoid or reject them completely. It is a paradox we have never quite sorted out (Fig. 1). Urban infrastructure forces dogs to utilise roads as both territories and conduits, a consequence of the provisioning via waste or ritual offerings, necessitating a mutual behavioural adjustment²³ between humans and canines. Consequently, dogs tend to respond to feeding by exhibiting behaviours perceived by humans as vigilant street sentinels. The latter causes conflicts. Despite millennia of coexistence with these commensal/companion animals^{6,24}, fundamental aspects of interaction remain unaddressed. Contrary to

93 assertions by certain experts, popularly called dog behaviourists, apprehension regarding street dogs is not
94 unwarranted—it signifies a system that has become dysfunctional, caught between impulsive actions and
95 an urgent requirement for strategic resolutions: regardless of whether one opts to feed a dog as an act of
96 kindness, or throw objects to deter canines that pose a risk.

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Fig. 1. Urban infrastructure as a behavioural scaffold: structuring canine degrees of freedom and inter-pack dynamics. This image depicts a busy street intersection in an Indian city, where multiple free-ranging dog packs coexist in proximity to humans, commercial stalls, and traffic corridors. The presence of Packs 1, 2, 3, and 4 in distinct spatial zones illustrates how infrastructure shapes the degrees of behavioural interaction among canine groups. While Packs 2 and 4 are aligned along single road segments and exhibit limited bidirectional interaction, Packs 1 and 3—situated at the crossroad—are positioned at a convergence zone, increasing their degrees of freedom for inter-pack and human interaction. This spatial ecology is not incidental but symptomatic of a larger phenomenon: urban infrastructure predisposes the behavioural interface between dogs, other commensals and humans, forming both conduits and barriers. While some humans view these animals as benign or sacred beings worthy of feeding, others perceive them as threats to safety and mobility. This contradiction underpins a multispecies paradox. Provisioning behaviours—whether through ritual feeding or waste discard—induce dogs to respond with heightened alertness and site fidelity, creating “sentinel” effects that may be misinterpreted as territorial aggression. The figure encapsulates this urban entanglement by illustrating how infrastructure implicitly structures canine socioecology. Roads, footpaths, and built edges serve not only as transit routes but also as interaction platforms that amplify or restrict pack dynamics. These spatial constraints influence mating, aggression, alliance formation, and feeding hierarchies, which remain poorly understood in existing urban animal management frameworks. Image generated using Gemini AI.

The Feeding Trap: Kindness With a Catch

Providing food, such as biscuits, milk, chapati or rice, to stray dogs in India is commonplace. This action is often motivated by compassion and is sometimes associated with spiritual beliefs regarding *karma* or *dharma* that may as well be an informal practice of cross-species reciprocity and cooperation^{25,26}. However, this seemingly kind gesture can have unintended negative consequences. Indiscriminate feeding of urban dogs contributes to a population increase. In cities such as Delhi, where waste management is already a significant challenge and overflowing bins provide a constant food source for strays, human handouts exacerbate the problem, leading to an overpopulation of dogs in urban areas²⁷. This increased dog population in densely populated spaces results in more frequent interactions between humans and dogs², which may lead to negative incidents such as bites, barking, and general public unease^{28,29}. Consequently, individuals may resort to drastic measures, including running away, harming the dogs, or relying on motorised transportation to avoid encounters; similar conflicts arise with other opportunists².

These short-sighted actions of generosity constitute a significant element of the problem. Individuals who feed dogs and other fauna experience immediate satisfaction², yet such gratification frequently neglects the adverse repercussions of this misguided empathy²³. These repercussions manifest as amplified distress when the aforementioned animals must navigate urban environments and interact with the human populace, particularly when these creatures are mobile in pursuit of maintaining their social structures^{30,31}. As parties accountable for feeding urban animals, we often fail to comprehend the larger spatial and temporal ramifications. Specifically, we neglect the effects of feeding upon the breeding habitats¹⁵ and strategies of these dogs and other animals³², which elements of the habitat will serve as refuge, and the consequences of population boom in municipal terms³³. This predicament is viciously cyclical and resistant to anti-birth control-based resolution due to its origins in human sentiment. Nonetheless, the pursuit of sustainable coexistence necessitates a departure from solely addressing the immediate nutritional needs of animals. Such a perspective represents an excessively anthropocentric expression of empathy^{2,3}.

A comparison between tiger conservation³⁴ and the current (variegated) state of dog welfare is illuminating. Tiger welfare is underpinned by scientific research, which delineates their requirements for territory, prey availability, protected corridors, and engagement with local communities. Conservation policies, though not without their flaws^{35,36}, reflect this scientific understanding³⁴. However, in the case of dogs, which exert considerable ecological influence³⁷⁻⁴⁰ and are deeply embedded in human society, a contrasting scenario prevails. There are no designated corridors or “sanctuaries” for canines. Their ecological niches encompass urban environments, refuse disposal sites, and the complex realm of human-animal interactions. A significant lacuna exists in the comprehensive understanding of dog social structures, behavioural patterns, and population dynamics within urban India.

In heterogeneously developed urban settings characterised by disorder^{2,3}, dog populations establish social groups of varying dimensions²⁷. In locales such as Delhi, extended pack structures consisting of males, females, and offspring thrive within areas encompassing refuse disposal sites and major roadways³. Their existence transcends mere foraging; it involves the maintenance of social dynamics, the protection of territorial boundaries, and the rearing of progeny²⁷. Instances of allopaternal guardianship of pups⁹, even amidst food abundance, indicate the presence of novel behaviours. Nonetheless, there is a dearth of scholarly inquiry into the mechanisms by which these animals navigate their social ties with both humans and conspecifics. Fundamental questions remain unanswered: What constitutes a perceived threat? What factors underlie their expressions of aggression, loyalty, and decisions regarding residency or departure? Current understanding in these domains remains limited.

The Numbers Don't Lie: A Crisis in Plain Sight

The human-dog coexistence stakes here are not small; the implications are substantial. India experiences over 20 million incidents of dog bites annually, representing a significant increase over recent decades. Furthermore, rabies, a critical health concern, results in 20,000 deaths per year in India, constituting 36% of global rabies-related fatalities²⁰. These figures underscore a severe public health crisis, rather than mere inconvenience⁴¹.

165 However, the issue extends beyond bites and rabies. Free-ranging dogs significantly impact the ecosystem.
166 With an estimated Indian population of 80 to 100 million, which is the largest globally^{20,42}, they exert
167 considerable ecological pressure. Predation upon endangered species, such as the Great Indian Bustard⁴³,
168 of which fewer than 150 remain, poses a grave threat. Furthermore, they are vectors for diseases like canine
169 distemper, which recently resulted in a 30% reduction of the Gir lion population⁴⁴. These interconnected
170 consequences are in the nascent stages of comprehension, revealing a multifaceted issue that extends
171 beyond anthropocentric concerns, encompassing a network of ecological ramifications necessitating further
172 scholarly inquiry. Notably, free-ranging dog populations engage in collective predation, impacting prey
173 dynamics³⁴ and inducing interference competition on predators and scavengers³.

174 **Dogs as Neighbours: What We Don't Know Hurts Us**

175 Situations of shared living spaces present significant complexities. Dogs are not merely stray animals; they
176 are social beings exercising innate and learned behaviours in response to the human niche for millennia^{45,46}.
177 They have discerned that human presence equals food, regardless of whether it is discarded remnants or
178 refuse heaps. However, this observation raises several questions. Does the act of human feeding induce
179 increased territoriality among the dogs toward specific human individuals? Does it contribute to heightened
180 boldness or aggression? How do they reconcile their established pack hierarchy with the provision of food
181 by humans?^{47,48} These are matters where our folk conjectures³ outweigh concrete knowledge, which poses
182 a considerable issue.

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Robert L. Trivers' theory of parent-offspring conflict⁴⁹ from a cross-species standpoint is pertinent to conspecific and interspecific interactions at the human-dog interface. In Delhi, malnourished female dogs rear large litters²⁷, which get variable support from people (Fig. 2). As a consequence, pups receive foster support but are deceased early due to malnutrition or accidents, which exemplifies a critical struggle for survival, likely permeating various behavioural strategies. Notably, there is a dearth of data connecting adverse physiological states to behavioural problems in free-ranging dogs. Their analysis shall explore the behavioural constraints encountered by commensal animals in urban settings, specifically focusing on how lactating females navigate the inherent conflict³² between defending their offspring and accepting food from humans, who may pose a perceived threat. Such modulation is especially relevant for large vertebrates armed with potentially dangerous weaponry (teeth, claws, talons, etc.) and thus theoretically capable of injuring people, driving them away^{23,32}. A deleterious cycle exists: suffering often engenders further suffering. It impacts dogs that receive care, people whose compassionate yet ultimately myopic actions involve feeding and ostensibly "caring" for them, and other dogs and people. Such provisioning, while intended to foster a sense of protection and association, often results in deleterious consequences, including harm and aggression towards other members of the urban populace²⁹.



Fig. 2. Maternal investment conflicts in urban environments: A free-ranging mother dog nursing her litter on an Indian street exemplifies the complex resource allocation dilemmas facing urban wildlife. The visibly malnourished mother supports multiple offspring while navigating unpredictable anthropogenic food sources and territorial pressures. This scene illustrates the “behavioural bottleneck” where parental investment strategies evolved for natural environments become maladaptive in human-dominated landscapes. Human feeding interventions often target juvenile animals directly, inadvertently intensifying parent-offspring conflicts by disrupting traditional resource transfer patterns. The mother requires approximately three times more calories than her offspring to sustain lactation, yet well-intentioned feeding practices frequently prioritise the more conspicuous juveniles. This triangulated resource dynamic—between maternal investment, offspring demands, and human intervention—demonstrates how urban environments create novel evolutionary pressures that challenge conventional approaches to animal welfare and population management. Understanding these complex behavioural ecologies becomes essential for developing effective coexistence strategies in rapidly urbanising regions. Image generated using Gemini AI.

This calls for a more **farsighted** approach, one that acknowledges the unforeseen ramifications of ritual feeding². Actions perceived as acts of charity—habitually feeding stray dogs—frequently obscure a critical disregard for the security and well-being of other people and animals. This engenders an “illusion of kindness,” a deceptive semblance. By normalising the presence of dogs in perilous street environments, we inadvertently subject them to lethal perils, including vehicular trauma, pathogenic exposure², and territorial conflicts²⁷. Their adaptive survival mechanisms, whereby they learn to correlate human proximity with food and protection, may also elicit offensive behaviours towards the unfamiliar, founded in instinct. Prolonged exposure to hostile environments fundamentally modifies dog ethology, escalating the probability of aggressive interactions with both human and non-human subjects²³.

Considering the analogy of sight, the myopia of coexistence with dogs is offering only food to random dogs, without implementing the overall ambit of care in association with sterilisation^{21,22}. It entails conflating anthropomorphic sentimentality with genuine welfare, the erroneous assumption that compassion toward individual dogs through platform feeding ensures both their welfare and public safety. Prescience, conversely, necessitates a reconceptualisation of the human-dog relationship through the lens of population dynamics¹⁶, resource management, disease vectors², and interspecies ethical³ considerations. It demands perceiving dogs not merely as hapless street companions or resilient strays but as populations with eco-evolutionary adaptations. Concurrently, there exists an impetus to remove street dogs from public thoroughfares via relocation, often euphemistically referred to as “purging”, for which the Honourable High Court of Delhi has issued a directive⁵⁰. Contrarily, communities ardently defend “their” dogs against municipal sterilisation units²⁷. Although intended as a venerated solution settled by the Honourable Delhi High Court, designated feeding areas contradict the fundamental ecological principle of territoriality and frequently exacerbate, rather than resolve, the underlying issue (Fig. 3). This order was ultimately stayed by the Honourable Supreme Court⁵¹. Streets in cities like Delhi witness dog pups crushed by vehicles, while residents keep feeding urban commensals. We are witnessing two parallel realities: visible acts of kindness masking invisible cycles of suffering (*author’s unpublished data*).

This analysis gains particular urgency following the Delhi High Court's directive to municipal authorities to submit a comprehensive policy framework by August 6, 2025, for the institutional rehabilitation and phasing out of free-ranging dogs from streets⁵². The court's demand for evidence-based Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) exposes fundamental gaps in urban animal governance that extend far beyond Delhi's boundaries, representing a systemic crisis in how cities worldwide approach multispecies coexistence^{53,54}. Current management approaches across Indian and, in general, tropical cities remain trapped in reactive paradigms that lack systematic ecological foundations. Municipal authorities typically operate without baseline assessments of carrying capacity, failing to understand how urban infrastructure creates heterogeneous resource landscapes that sustain free-ranging populations. The absence of behavioural studies means that human-dog interactions are managed through assumptions rather than empirical understanding of territorial dynamics, pack structures, and resource competition patterns. Demographic analyses remain superficial, focusing on crude population counts rather than age-structure dynamics, reproductive rates, mortality patterns, and spatial distribution across diverse urban microhabitats²⁷.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi's institutional architecture exemplifies broader governance impediments in urban animal management. Departmental fragmentation creates jurisdictional confusion where public health, veterinary services, waste management, and urban planning operate in isolation. Technical expertise in urban ecology remains virtually absent from municipal decision-making processes, with policies crafted by administrators lacking interdisciplinary training in human-animal interface dynamics⁵². Monitoring systems, where they exist, capture episodic data rather than longitudinal patterns necessary for adaptive management approaches. The temporal mismatch between judicial expectations and scientific knowledge production reveals deeper structural contradictions in evidence-based policy development. Courts, responding to public interest litigation⁵² pressure and constitutional obligations, demand immediate solutions to complex socio-ecological problems that require years of baseline research, population monitoring, and adaptive management trials. This institutional disconnect perpetuates cycles of

ad-hoc interventions—mass sterilisation drives, relocation attempts, feeding bans—that neither address root causes nor achieve sustainable coexistence outcomes²⁰.

The court’s expectation for “institutional rehabilitation” reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of urban ecology. Free-ranging dogs exist within intricate social-ecological networks that span formal and informal economic sectors, waste management systems, community feeding practices, and territorial arrangements developed over generations. Institutional solutions that ignore these embedded relationships risk creating welfare disasters for both animals and dependent human communities. Furthermore, the August timeline demonstrates how legal frameworks operate disconnected from ecological temporalities². Sustainable population management requires understanding seasonal breeding patterns, juvenile survival rates, and environmental carrying capacity fluctuations¹⁶. Effective rehabilitation necessitates establishing infrastructure, training personnel, developing community partnerships, and creating monitoring protocols—processes that cannot be compressed into bureaucratic deadlines without compromising scientific rigour.

This disconnect between judicial expectations and available knowledge underscores the critical need for research-informed policy development that transcends shortsighted approaches to urban animal coexistence. The Delhi case illuminates how cities require fundamental restructuring of governance systems to integrate ecological understanding with institutional frameworks, moving beyond crisis-driven responses toward anticipatory multispecies planning that acknowledges the complex temporalities and spatial scales inherent in urban socio-ecological systems^{2,55}.



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283 **Fig. 3. Standing at the intersection of policy and ecological reality:** Where well-intentioned court orders
 284 meet the complex science of animal behaviour. This feeding station board at JNU represents a common
 285 urban challenge - how do we balance compassion with ecological understanding? While the intention to
 286 care for street dogs is admirable, concentrated feeding can inadvertently create resource competition
 287 hotspots, alter territorial dynamics, and increase human-animal conflicts. Behavioural research suggests
 288 that sustainable coexistence requires moving beyond emotion-driven solutions toward evidence-based
 289 strategies that respect both animal welfare and ecological principles. The question is not whether we should
 290 care for urban animals, but how we can do so in ways that truly serve both species' long-term interests.

Traditionally effective perspectives on human-animal interaction have been challenged by the current scale of urban food subsidies dispersed along variable infrastructure¹⁵. Delhi's per capita income — now the highest in the country⁵⁶ — has resulted in increased ritualistic feeding of dogs and other animals, which significantly alters canine behaviour toward unfamiliar people. Current research is insufficient to fully understand these impacts, and the complexities of human-animal conflict, beyond bite incidents, remain poorly documented^{29,40}. We urgently need to examine the complex interactions between individual urban dogs and their overall population dynamics under anthropogenic influences to mitigate the escalating issues surrounding dog-related conflicts. The lack of comprehensive understanding obstructs efficacious management strategies, resulting in reactionary approaches primarily driven by reported bite incidents and public apprehension. Notably, the perception of conflict among urban residents is contingent upon their frequency of exposure to unfamiliar dogs. Furthermore, individuals from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds engaged in door-to-door services, who frequently utilise bicycles or similar modes of transportation, are disproportionately vulnerable to dog aggression²⁷.

A Way Forward: From Survival to Coexistence

In many ways, our well-intentioned patronising of human nature towards select free-ranging species is compromising both public health and animal welfare, creating an ecological trap^{57–59} for both agencies. Consequently, further investigation is imperative to elucidate the fundamental effects of environmental and regional infrastructural elements on the human-dog relationship, thereby facilitating the development of coexistence strategies. The individual featured in the widely disseminated video⁷ represents how the general populace encounters such challenges, with billions facing comparable circumstances daily. Remedial efforts predicated on transient resolutions are insufficient; it is exigent to formulate long-term solutions that address the causative factors, not mere temporary relocation. This is not a call to vilify dogs, but rather a call to acknowledge the complexities of the situation. It is essential to recognise that urban free-ranging dogs are neither domestic animals that have failed to find homes, nor embodiments of idealised fidelity, nor merely warranting elimination. They are sentient beings, possessing cognitive abilities and adaptive

mechanisms, whose destinies are inextricably intertwined with those of humans. Urban environments exert a profound influence on their evolutionary trajectory and behavioural patterns, which, in turn, significantly affect human policies, apprehensions, empathic responses, and cognitive biases/perceptions³.

Addressing the challenge of stray dog populations necessitates a multi-faceted approach. Firstly, effective waste management⁵⁵ is paramount. Reducing readily available food sources by increasing bin availability, implementing regular waste collection, and minimising littering can disrupt the supply chain supporting stray dogs. Secondly, strategic feeding initiatives are crucial. Instead of haphazard distribution of food, redirecting public generosity towards established shelters along with organised feeding programs can help control population growth via anti-birth control measures. Third, public education is essential. Raising awareness about the risks associated with stray dogs, such as rabies and ecological disruption, and promoting safe coexistence through workshops, public campaigns, and educational programs³, particularly for children, the elderly and the vulnerable, is vital⁶⁰. Lastly, rigorous research into dog behaviour and population dynamics is required to inform evidence-based strategies and evaluate their efficacy.

It is imperative to conduct research that transcends mere sterilisation statistics and vaccination tallies. Longitudinal studies^{3,34} are required to monitor behavioural patterns, assess population fluctuations, and comprehend interspecific interactions. Urban development and planning should incorporate the spatial utilisation patterns of dogs and other commensals, including the creation of habitat systems where people can continue feeding, while also participating in overall care to limit agonistic encounters. Public educational initiatives must extend beyond the cultivation of compassion, focusing instead on the formulation of coexistence paradigms predicated upon ecological as well as cultural principles. The era of reactive emotional interventions has concluded. Scientific inquiry, empathetic consideration, and strategic planning with a forward-looking perspective are now essential.

This discourse does not advocate for the expulsion of dogs from urban environments. Rather, it promotes the recognition of these animals as sentient beings with intrinsic requirements and natural behaviours, transcending the simplistic perception of them as mere issues requiring resolution, or animals that only need to be fed. Coexistence necessitates a dynamic equilibrium; it is a moving target against the backdrop of urban changes that yields conviviality, not conflict. Given the dynamic nature of ecosystems that are reeling under anthropogenic pressures, such coexistence with non-humans cannot be the status quo. Individual decisions that highlight systemic deficiencies concerning both human and nonhuman shall be monitored to govern well-being. Ultimately, the central inquiry is straightforward: Are we prepared to adopt a comprehensive perspective? Or will we persist in our current course of action, characterised by partial comprehension and the misguided assumption of assisting, while concurrently engendering suffering in dogs and humans alike, and contributing to the escalation of urban hazards?

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