

# **Effectiveness of ABC Programme in the Society**

## **1. Project Details: Animal Birth Control Programme (ABC)**

### **Overview of the Project**

Street dogs have always been a part and parcel of Indian urban and rural life like many other developing countries in the world. Many of these animals live in close contact with human beings. In India, for more than 150 years upto 2001, mass killing of street dogs through various forms, including electrocution, shooting and poisoning were seen as the only solution by the authorities to address the issue of over population of street dogs and deaths due to rabies. Some sporadic but illegal killings still continue to take place in many parts of India. Much of the research and experiences of internationally reputed organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, (FAO) and independent researchers suggest that killing street dogs can have no correlation with the objective of reducing their population, or reducing the number of dog-bites or deaths caused by rabies. Much of this research is collated and included in this report.

The availability of more food waste due to changes in society such as urbanization and increased human densities, combined with a lack of responsible ownership, are leading to an apparent increase of free-roaming dogs. There is a clear need to manage street dog populations efficiently to promote human and animal health and welfare, without causing animal suffering. The solutions to address this issue need to be beneficial to both animals as well as humans, and in accordance with law.

Lakhs of stray dogs live on the streets of Kerala. Most are direct descendants of their feral canine ancestors, a "breed" much older than any AKC (American Kennel Club) breed. With the recent increase in popularity among Keralities of full breed dogs, more and more street dogs are abandoned pets or have bred

with pet breeds. It is worth to note that the stray dog population in Kerala as per 2012 census is 2.99 lakhs. It is estimated that the number of stray dogs is approximately 6 lakhs as of now. Although they are widely feared because some carry rabies, for the most part street dogs are not aggressive and will only bite if provoked.

Kerala street dog population is closely associated with municipal sanitation practices – or neglect thereof. Because these homeless dogs often survive by scavenging rubbish, exposed garbage means more healthy dogs – and more puppies. Ironically, this actually makes the dogs a boon to public sanitation. By scavenging garbage, they reduce perishable waste that could otherwise be a source of contamination for people. And their presence around garbage keeps away other potentially dangerous scavengers, such as rats and mice. Unfortunately, fear and ignorance have led citizens and officials to see street dogs as nothing but a nuisance and to seek eradication using inhumane methods such as poisoning and beating. But for every dog killed, another typically comes in to take over that dog's territory. The only scientific method to humanely reduce street dog populations is mass spay and neuters, commonly known as animal birth control (ABC). Through ABC programs, all the dogs within a community or region are sterilized and then released back to their territories. The result: dog breeding stops and their population declines.

### **Objectives**

- To control both, street dog populations as well as human / animal rabies when conducted efficiently.
- To catch street dogs, surgically sterilize and vaccinate the dogs against rabies and release them back to the exact location from where they came.
- Vaccination of the dogs against rabies will help limit the transmission of this fatal, zoonotic disease.

**Year of Commencement : 2017 - 2018**

**Funded by : Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala.**

## Fund Allocation over the Years : Rs.15,96,91,626/- (2017-18 to 2020-21)

**Target : 1,00,000**

**Achievement : 77,514 Dogs Sterilized**

DISTRICT	TVM	PTA	ALP	KTM	IDK	EKM	TCR	WYN	TOTAL
<b>2016-17</b>									
FUND RECEIVED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND EXPENDITURE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REMAINNG FUND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOGS STERILIZED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2017-18</b>									
FUND RECEIVED+ Carry forwarded	11685900	8441529	0	5688835	299500	8485600	0	0	<b>34601364</b>
FUND EXPENDITURE	11685900	5474700	0	3783839	298200	8485600	0	0	<b>29728239</b>
REMAINNG FUND	0	3017859	0	1905000	1300	0	0	0	<b>4924159</b>
DOGS STERILIZED	5564	2607	0	2500	142	4079	0	0	<b>14892</b>
<b>2018-19</b>									
FUND RECEIVED+ Carry forwarded	13374400	3225100	4200000	5793458	630000	11864000	0	855000	<b>39941958</b>
FUND EXPENDITURE	13374400	4380600	4004600	5414481	627900	11864000	0	0	<b>39665981</b>
REMAINNG FUND	0	1943639	195400	378977	2100	0	0	855000	<b>3375116</b>
DOGS STERILIZED	6367	2086	2058	3017	299	5656	1497	0	<b>20980</b>
<b>2019-20</b>									
FUND RECEIVED+ Carry forwarded	15280100	3311400	9458800	3179713	4391300	7827250	13201200	300000	<b>56949763</b>
FUND EXPENDITURE	13820600	3586800	8006500	2845736	4383500	7827250	6020700	0	<b>46491086</b>
REMAINNG FUND	1459500	1812139	1647700	333977	7800	0	7452400	300000	<b>13013516</b>
DOGS STERILIZED	7117	1767	4066	1619	2099	3732	2867	0	<b>23267</b>
<b>2020-21</b>									
FUND RECEIVED + Carry forwarded	15019200	2561000	1048300	5174845	2349775	4068100	12835100	750000	<b>43806320</b>
FUND EXPENDITURE	11077500	2944200	2514600	3167721	2345875	2727000	7948500	1148700	<b>33874096</b>
REMAINNG FUND	3941700	1289239	181400	2007124	3900	1341100	5240500	756300	<b>14761263</b>
DOGS STERILIZED	7154	1402	947	1518	1075	1997	3735	547	<b>18375</b>

## 2. SUB COMPONENT : Effectiveness of ABC Programme in the Society

### Background : Understanding the Issue

#### What are street dogs?

Most free-roaming dogs belong to an ancient canine race known as the Pariah Dog. Dogs have existed all over Asia and Africa ever since humans started living in settlements. They were the first animals to be domesticated, and their

loyalty and love for their care-givers is what earned them the title of man's best friend. They are, and have always been, scavengers. In India the breed has existed for perhaps 14,000 years or more. In addition to scavenging, they are widely kept as free roaming pets by rural and urban slum households. The word 'stray' is used for street dogs in the context of the animal not being an 'owned' dog or a 'pet' dog. However, all dogs whether owned or stray/street share the same characteristics of being a loyal friend, a watch/guard dog, eager to please humans and exist in harmony with them. A large proportion of the urban street dog population consists of mongrels or mixed-breeds, i.e. dogs that have descended from pedigree dogs which have been allowed by their owners to interbreed with street dogs. Not all street dogs are infact stray or ownerless animals. There are street dogs which do not have owners or are feral household but may still be accepted by the neighbourhood as belonging to the community. These animals are 'community owned'. Members of the neighbourhood assume occasional responsibility for these dogs by feeding them, treating them when they are ill and getting them vaccinated, and also by protecting them from people who intend to harm them.

### **Why do they exist?**

The size of the street dog population usually corresponds to the size and character of the human population of the area, before an animal birth control programme is put into place. Some of the reasons which create and sustain street dog population:

### **Large amounts of exposed garbage, which provide an abundant source of food**

The abundance of dogs is dependent on the habitat, especially the availability of resources such as food, water and shelter. Access to these resources depends on settlement patterns, rubbish and waste disposal, rules for keeping animals and other cultural practices. To understand the population biology of the species, it is important to keep in mind the differences in ownership status,

degrees of restriction on their movement, social interaction, reproduction and levels of dependence on human care.” (Wandeler et al, 1993). It is clear to us that the population of street dogs is directly related to the amount of food and edible waste matter in an area. Areas of the city which are kept clean, usually because they house affluent, influential people have a very low dog population; areas of the city with dense, poor quality housing and large amounts of waste have a much higher population. The overall, ultimate answer to street dog population control is to control the availability of edible wastes.

### **Large human populations living on the streets or in slums who keep the dogs as free roaming pets/neighbourhood dogs**

In India, 60% of the dog population falls under the neighbourhood dog category” (Reece JF and Chawla SK, 2006). Food is very often provided to street dogs by local communities. In a large number of cities and towns, many people live on the streets or in slums. Such people keep street dogs as pets and also feed them. They work with animal welfare organizations to catch, sterilize, vaccinate and treat them when they fall sick. In return, the dogs give them security, love and companionship. Such dogs become easier to catch when they have to be taken for sterilizations (ABC) and re-vaccinations against rabies (ARV).

### **Irresponsible Pet Ownership**

Pet dogs that are abandoned continue to live on the streets if not rescued or killed in road accidents, thus inter-breeding and adding to the existing street dog population. Abandonment is linked to the unregulated and unchecked commercial dog breeding and trading industry comprising breeders and pet shops causing the street dog population to grow. Some pet owners also allow their pets to mate with street dogs thus increasing their population.

## **Their impact on humans /society**

Dogs play a number of important roles in human societies: they provide companionship and are used for a variety of activities including herding other animals and guarding property. Animals live in close contact with human beings. India has a large street dog population. The four reasons for their existence have been enumerated in 2.2 above. The availability of more food waste, due to changes in society such as urbanization and increased human densities, combined with a lack of responsible pet ownership and unregulated breeding are leading to an apparent increase of free-roaming dogs. There is a clear need to manage street dog populations efficiently to promote human and animal health and welfare, without causing animal suffering.

The need to control the number of dogs, especially stray dogs, is motivated in part by public health concerns, particularly in relation to rabies transmission. In addition to disease transmission, dog bites and the fear of aggressive dogs also pose a risk to human health and well-being and can lead to panic and the inhumane culling of dogs. Promoting responsible dog ownership with emphasis on behaviour and basic needs and ensuring that dogs are properly vaccinated and treated against diseases are, therefore, essential. Furthermore, educational and bite prevention programmes for the public, and especially children, should always include guidance on how to interact with animals and what to do when approached by dogs, particularly those that show signs of fear and/or aggression”

## **Dog Demographics**

“Despite the fact that street dogs do not live in households, the distribution and number of street dogs found in a community is highly dependent on human behavior. Various studies examining dog population dynamics have found that the dog population size is a function of human factors” (Morters et al., 2014; Garde et al., 2012).Garde et al (2012) radio collared un-owned street dogs in

Puerte Natales, Chile to assess home ranges and found that the majority spent most of their time clustered around human houses and the places where humans provided food. Morters et al studied freeroaming dog populations in Bali, Indonesia and Johannesburg, South Africa and found that the majority of the street dogs were considered owned by survey participants (99% and 88% respectively). “Dog populations (counting both pets and street dogs) around the world vary from 0.1 dogs per 100 humans to 50 dogs per 100 humans. This very large range is not caused by differences in dog reproductive capacity (which would be more or less the same across the globe)”. (Andrew N Rowan, PhD & Tamara Kartal, 2015)

### **The Solution: Animal Birth Control programme**

The Animal Birth Control (ABC) Program is mandated by the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001. The Supreme Court and several High Courts have, in their judgments, emphasized on the need for implementation of the ABC Rules, 2001, in letter and spirit. This section lays out various actions (Section 4.1 - 4.7) that need to be taken as part of the ABC program. Implementation of these actions will lead to:

1. Reduction in incidence of dog bites and rabies
2. Reduction of dog population
3. Tackling complaints related to dog (nuisance) issues from general public
4. Effective management of dogs at sensitive locations like airports and hospitals
5. Monitoring and impact assessment of the programme

Based on empirical as well as observational data, it has been found that ABC conducted in the prescribed manner works effectively for the following reasons:

1. Street dogs are sterilized and put back in the same territory.
2. Since territories are not left vacant, new dogs will not enter.

3. Mating and breeding also cease.
4. With no mating and no puppies, street dog fights and accidental bites to humans also becomes scarce.
5. The street dogs are immunized and hence they cannot spread rabies.
6. Over time, street dogs die a natural death and their numbers dwindle.

As a result, the street dog population becomes stable, non-breeding, more friendly and rabies free, with a gradual decrease in numbers over a period of time.

### **Objectives:**

- To control both, street dog populations as well as human / animal rabies when conducted efficiently.
- To catch street dogs, surgically sterilize and vaccinate the dogs against rabies and release them back to the exact location from where they came.
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**Year of Commencement : 2017 - 2018**

**Target : 1,00,000**

**Achievement : 77,514 Dogs Sterilized**

### **3. METHODOLOGY:**

The Study was conducted by collecting Primary and Secondary data from the beneficiaries, implementation teams and monitoring team.

### **4. IMPACT OF THE SUB COMPONENT OF THE PROJECT**

#### **Impact**

Most Indian civic bodies have been killing street dogs for decades, some since the last century. The concept was directly imported from the developed



countries without any understanding of the different urban and rural conditions in developing countries. As per section 438 of Kerala Municipality and Kerala Panchyats acts, Secretaries of respective Municipality and Gram Panchayat were endowed with the power to destroy/kill stray dogs. However by the year 2001, ABC (dog) 2001 rules were enacted in the country, through which the authorities of Secretaries to employ methods to exterminate dogs were removed. However, these rules were rarely enacted and led to unauthorized killing of the dogs, leading to many litigation on inhumane killing of the dog, and inflict of injury by the street dogs in humans. This litigation prompted the constitution of Justice C.E. Jagan Committee which studied issues and impacts of the dog stray menace in Kerala. The committee had numerous sitting with both the animal lovers and people impacted by the stray dog. Based on the study, this commission recommended that ABC rules for stray control has to be followed strictly by the state

Even after the recommendation, many of the local self governments were not able to implement the ABC programmes in the most effective manner. There were no interest in identification of suitable dog catchers and empanelment of veterinary service providers. However the situation took a drastic turn with the mauling and killing one old fisher women by stray dogs at Pulvilla in Karimkulum in Trivnadrur districts. This lead to widespread public outrage leading to improved efforts by the government in addressing this issue. With the successful track record of implementing many social responsible enterprises, Kudumbashree was selected as the agency which could help the government in tiding over these critical situations.

### **The enabling factor**

Historically, dog catching has been relegated as job of lower order, often undertaken by specific groups of people. Placing this activity as economic activity for women was one of the greatest challenges in the implementation. The underpinning social mannerism limiting the women to take these unconventional roles was another melting point of discussion

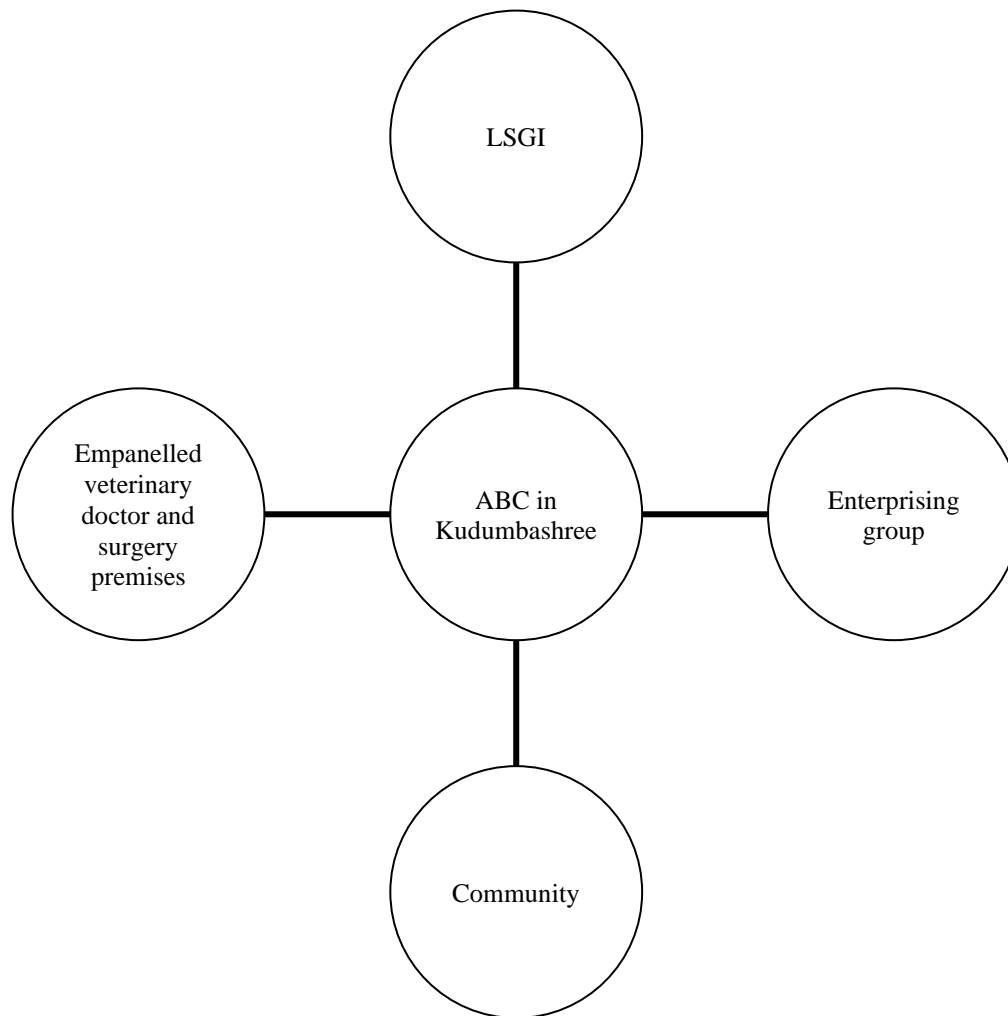
However Kudumbashree was resolute in talking this as an challenge and wanted to put this as challenge in the status of women and work. In order to turn around this situation, Kudumbashree worked along with Local Government department to change the fees structure for activity of the ABC Accordingly a new GO RT1450/LSGD dt 05.05.2017 was released leading higher fees for catching and undertaking the ABC process for the dogs. This GO was one of the enabling factors leading to changing the perception of ABC as an economic activity to be undertaken as group enterprises by the women by associating with veterinary doctor

### **The process**

As underlined in the statements above ABC is unlike any other microenterprises, in which the demand and supply is completely market driven. As per the standing law of the lands, it is the local self government which has the authority to empanel the agency for undertaking ABC procedure for against the funds allocated by them in each of the year

Hence in the case of the ABC, one of the primary process was to built the convergences with the Local self governments departments such that Kudumbashree units are empanelled for the undertaking the process

Some of the major components for the success of the programme



**Enterprise Group:**

Identification of the right and willing beneficiary for the formation of the ABC groups forms next major component. As the ABC process requires different skill set and different procedures. 4-5 women normally forms a group and at times hires the services of male dog catcher

The Enterprise group are registered at the District mission and ably supported by ensuring convergences with then LSGI for ensure g adequate demand and empanelment.

**Veterinary doctor and Premise for surgery:**

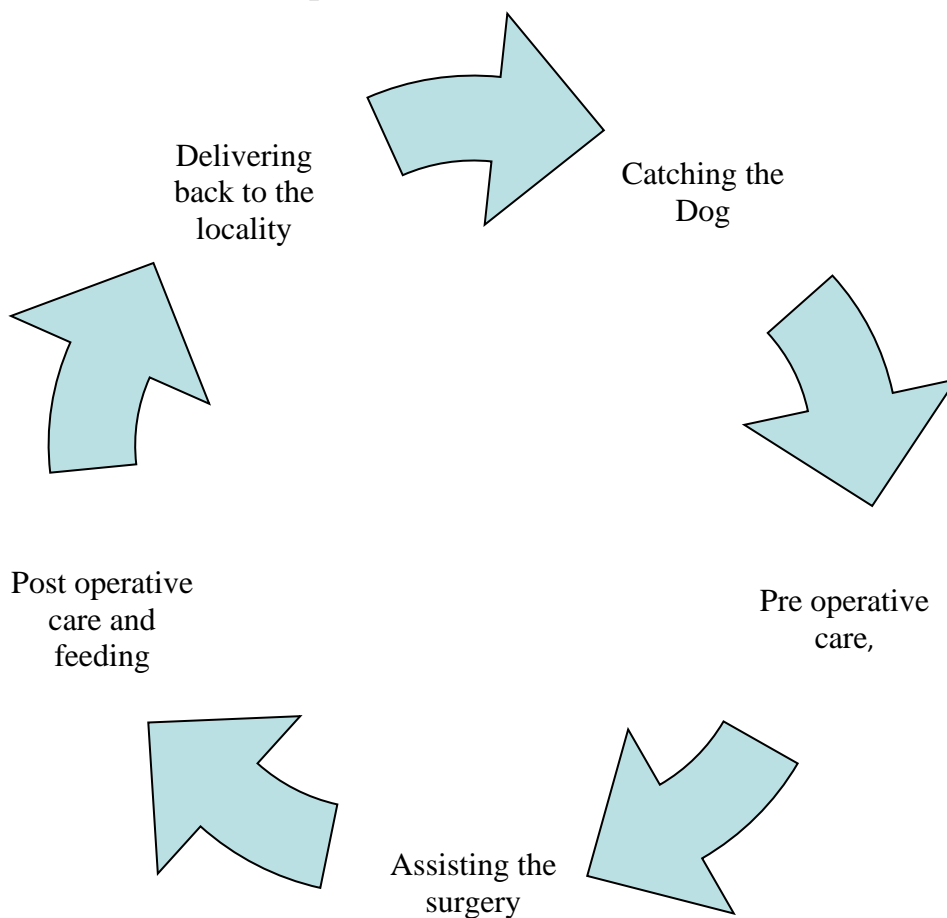
As the procedure for ABC involves sterilization and neutering of the animals which are both invasive technique, only registered veterinary doctors are

legalized to undertake this procedures in dogs. Accordingly the ABC enterprising group has to make sure the availability of veterinary either through converging with the Panchayth veterinary doctor or by empanelling the other doctors. In both the cases the group should ensure the availability of operation theatre for conducting the surgery.

**Community:**

Community forms one of the other major stakeholders of the programme as this enterprise is formed based on social issues. The support and encouragement of the local community are very much essential for the success this programme. In most of the times the support of the community for catching the dogs are forth coming, ,but while releasing back the dogs, the community are not so much forth coming in recevning back the sterilized dogs.

**Activities of ABC Groups**



An ABC management unit is constituted with 5 members, who were the owner cum proprietors of the unit. In addition to that, there would be a doctor who is empanelled by District Mission office. The unit have right to decide whether they need to hire service of a professional Dog catcher. The units will receive an initial training from District Mission and after that the units would undergo a continuous monitoring to determine the need of follow-up training. The unit members will meet with President, Secretary and the Veterinary doctor of those LSGIs which transferred Fund to District Mission office. They would identify the worst areas and inform the Units, the units will deploy a catching team by early morning. The catching team will explore every corner of pre decided wards to capture the stray dogs. By 11 am the team would complete the catching and return to the ABC centers. In the mean time another team of two women will be waiting in the hospital. By 8.30 am this two member team will arrive the hospital to clean the cages, operation theatre and other required facilities. By 10 am Doctor will arrive at the ABC centre; he will ensure availability all medicines, tools and equipments. For a normal day of procedures, the team would manage to complete ABC procedure for 15 to 25 dogs a day by 5pm on that same day. Next two days the team will be engaged in post operative care of stray dogs in the cage. After the doctor examine and ensure the fitness of dogs, the team will go for releasing of that batch and to catch another batch. Those stray found unfit would be allowed in the cage for two or more days to recover as per the instruction of doctor.

### **The impact of the programme**

#### **Spread of the programme**

Presently the Kudumbashree ABC groups has been empanelled by 498 LSGI of the total 1034, hence Kudumbashree now covers one third of the total LSGI, in the state. This arrangement has enabled Kudumbashree to make more number of units and provide livelihoods for the more number of people.

Even though the Kudumbashree has fair presence in the number of the LSGI covered in the state, the coverage is non uniform, as depicted in figure number 2, here some of the districts there are complete coverage, where as some with zero coverage reflecting the non uniformity

### **Demand and supply**

Based on the demand from the LSGI, Kudumbashree has been successful setting up required number of the units as per the demands from the LSGI, the graphical representation depicts the demands and the establishment of the units as per the demands

### **Dogs Caught**

The most importance of this project depends solely on the number of the dogs caught under the programme. This number reflects the success of the programme and the income of the generated for the members. The each of the animal caught reflects to the almost 2100 rupees being generated for the units of which roughly around 1200, goes as cost and other requirements leading a profit generation of around 900 rupees per dog/ group

Hence through the Kudumbashree ABC projects more than 30000 dogs has been put under the process of ABC by effectively converging with the LSGI, through the establishment of morethan 60, groups generating livelihoods for more than 300 members and generating a revenue of more than 3.25 Crore rupees.

### **TESTIMONIALS**

A mobile ABC unit named Sredha Mobile Artificial Insemination & Veterinary Services working at Ernakulam is a model unit in Animal Birth Control Programme. An Entrepreneur named Priya Prakash is heading this unit in a successful manner.

നായ്ക്കളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാൻ ആവിഷ്കരിച്ച എബിസി പദ്ധതി നിരവധി വിപുലമായ മിറാറും 2 വർഷത്തിനിടെ 7,900 തെരുവു നായ്ക്കളെയാണ് പിടികൂടി വന്ധ്യകരണത്തിന് വിധേയമാക്കിയത്. കുടുംബശ്രീയും തദ്ദേശ സീമാപനങ്ങളും ചേർന്ന് നടപ്പാക്കുന്ന പദ്ധതിയുടെ നടത്തിപ്പുകാരിൽ ഏറെയും വനിതകൾ...

# തെരുവുസുരക്ഷയുടെ എബിസി

“ തെരുവു നായ്ക്ക് മേലാലോചന നടത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നും, തെരുവുനായ്ക്ക് മേലാലോചന നടത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നും, തെരുവുനായ്ക്ക് മേലാലോചന നടത്താൻ പാടില്ലെന്നും...”

**ബാബു പല്ലച്ചി**  
കൊണ്ട് • തെരുവുനായ്ക്കളെ മാർഗ്ഗരേഖപ്പെടുത്തി നിയന്ത്രിക്കാനാണ് എബിസി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം. നായ്ക്കളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാനാണ് എബിസി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം. നായ്ക്കളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാനാണ് എബിസി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം.



വന്ധ്യകരണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ ശസ്ത്രക്രിയയ്ക്ക് ശേഷം നിരീക്ഷണത്തിനായി പാർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നായ്ക്കൾ.

**തെരുവുനായ്ക്കർക്ക് വിശ്വേചി പരിഗണന**  
തെരുവുനായ്ക്കളെ ചുറ്റും സജീവമാക്കാനാണ് എബിസി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം. നായ്ക്കളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാനാണ് എബിസി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം.

**രംഗത്തുള്ളത് 4 യൂണിറ്റുകൾ**  
കുടുംബശ്രീയുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ 4 യൂണിറ്റുകളാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ തെരുവുനായ്ക്കളുടെ വന്ധ്യകരണത്തിന് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നത്. മറ്റൊരു യൂണിറ്റും, മറ്റൊരു യൂണിറ്റും, മറ്റൊരു യൂണിറ്റും...

**ഒരു നായയുടെ വന്ധ്യകരണത്തിന് ചെലവ് 2,100 രൂപ**  
നിരത്തിൽ അലയുന്ന തെരുവു നായയെ പിടികൂടി പരിപാലന കേന്ദ്രത്തിലേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുവരികും. പിടികൂടി നിയമമനുസരിച്ചായി തിരച്ചിൽ നടത്തുന്നതിന് 2,100 രൂപ ചെലവുണ്ട്.

**സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്ന യൂണിറ്റും പരിഗണനയിൽ**  
തെരുവുനായ്ക്കളെ പിടികൂടി വന്ധ്യകരണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിലേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുവരികും. പിടികൂടി നിയമമനുസരിച്ചായി തിരച്ചിൽ നടത്തുന്നതിന് 2,100 രൂപ ചെലവുണ്ട്.

**കൺസോർഷ്യം രൂപീകരിക്കും**  
തെരുവുനായ്ക്ക് പരിഗണന നൽകാനാണ് എബിസി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം. നായ്ക്കളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാനാണ് എബിസി പദ്ധതിയുടെ ലക്ഷ്യം.



നായ്ക്കളെ വന്ധ്യകരണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിലേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുവരികും.