

A DIVIDED WORLD - ORGANIZING AND
CHANNELISING EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN AT IIT-B
TOWARDS THE CAUSE OF STRAY DOG WELFARE

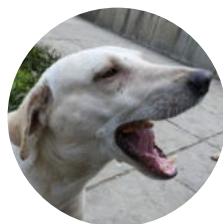
VISUAL COMMUNICATION PROJECT II
VCPR - 361

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INDUSTRIAL DESIGN CENTRE
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2016



A DIVIDED WORLD

Organizing and channelising efforts undertaken
at IITB towards the cause of stray dog welfare

A Divided World

Organising and
channelling efforts
undertaken at IITB
towards the cause of
animal welfare.

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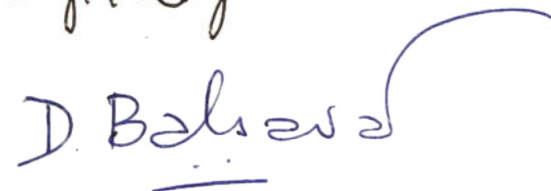
Approval Sheet

This report entitled “A Divided World” by Suruchi Sati (146250013) is as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of “Master of Design” in Visual Communication.

Guide: 

Chairperson: 

Internal Examiner: 

External Examiner: 

Date: 30/10/16

Declaration

I hereby declare that this project work entitled “A Divided World - Organising and channelising efforts undertaken at IIT-B towards the cause of stray dog Welfare” submitted to IDC, IIT Bombay, is a record of an original work. I declare that this written submission represents my ideas in my own words and where others’ ideas or words have been included, I have adequately cited and referenced the original sources.



Name : Suruchi Sati
Roll No. : 146250013
Date : 17/09/2015

I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and have not misrepresented or fabricated or falsified any data / fact / source in my submission. I understand that any violation of the above will be cause for disciplinary action by the Institute and can also evoke penal action from the sources, which have thus not been properly cited or from whom proper permission has not been taken when needed.

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all those who provided me the guidance this project. My heartfelt thanks to the project guides : Prof. Sudesh Balan, and Prof. Mandar Rane, whose contribution in stimulating suggestions and encouragement, helped me to complete my project. I would also like to thank Prof. Sumant Rao, who helped me achieve clarity on the relevant issues.

Furthermore I would also like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of the volunteers, residents at IITB and the security team, for their valuable inputs and cooperation.

A special thank goes to my batch mates and my family, who provided their sincere suggestions and helped put my thoughts and ideas in perspective.

Abstract

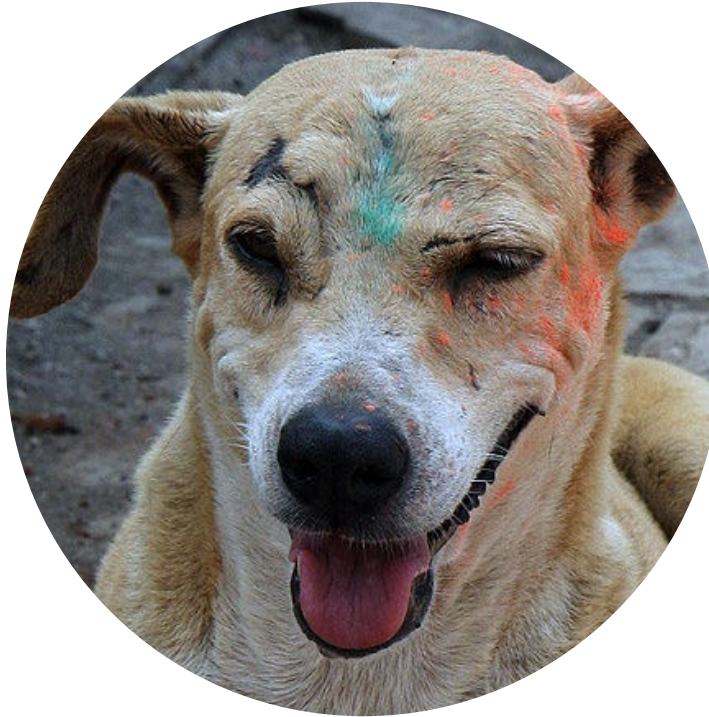
In Mumbai, there are around two million stray. IIT Bombay, due to its proximity to Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Powai Lake, itself houses many different kinds and species of stray and wild animals, which includes, stray dogs, cats, monkeys, snakes, leopards, etc. One of the major issues, as reported by the residents, is the presence of stray dogs and cats. For many years, the human residents of IITB have had a variety of responses on the situation. The community here is mostly divided on the issue, and, hence there is a dire need for a formal / informal,

functional body or committee, with a vision based on compassions without bias, that could cater to the needs of the residents of the campus, both humans and animals.

Through this project, I hope to understand the practical and ideological reasons responsible for the stray dog-human conflict at IITB and propose solutions that keep the relevant welfare of both people and stray dogs residing in the campus.

X

Project 2 : A divided world



A DIVIDED WORLD

An attempt at understanding the age old
problem of the dog-issue on campus.

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Introduction

IIT Bombay, resides **a wide variety on living beings other than humans**, which have given rise to many issues that come with inevitable encounters between animals and humans, as well as people with different viewpoints on the matter, coexisting in a confided, shared space.

In the past few years, a group of people, who have compassion for animals, have been trying to address the issues associated with such turbulent interactions. Only recently, have they felt the need to organise elements within the group better, to cater to the needs of the cause, which also leads to the rise of scope for good design for increased efficiency.

This project aims at understanding the clashes between different groups in the community that resides in IIT Bombay, over the issue of presence of wild and stray animals on campus. There have been many reports of people having hostiles encounters with the animals and vice versa.

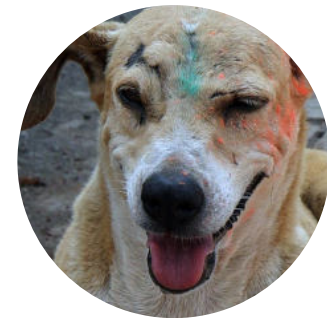
The problem of stray dogs, being one of the most frequently occurring controversy on campus, is one of the biggest aspect of the issue of animal presence on campus. Such issues need immediate attention as it results in creating further rifts not only, between animals and humans, but only between people who have varying opinion on the matter.

Project Objective

- To provide practical solution to facilitate human-stray dog coexistence.
- To contribute towards the cause of animal welfare.

Animals / birds at IIT Bombay

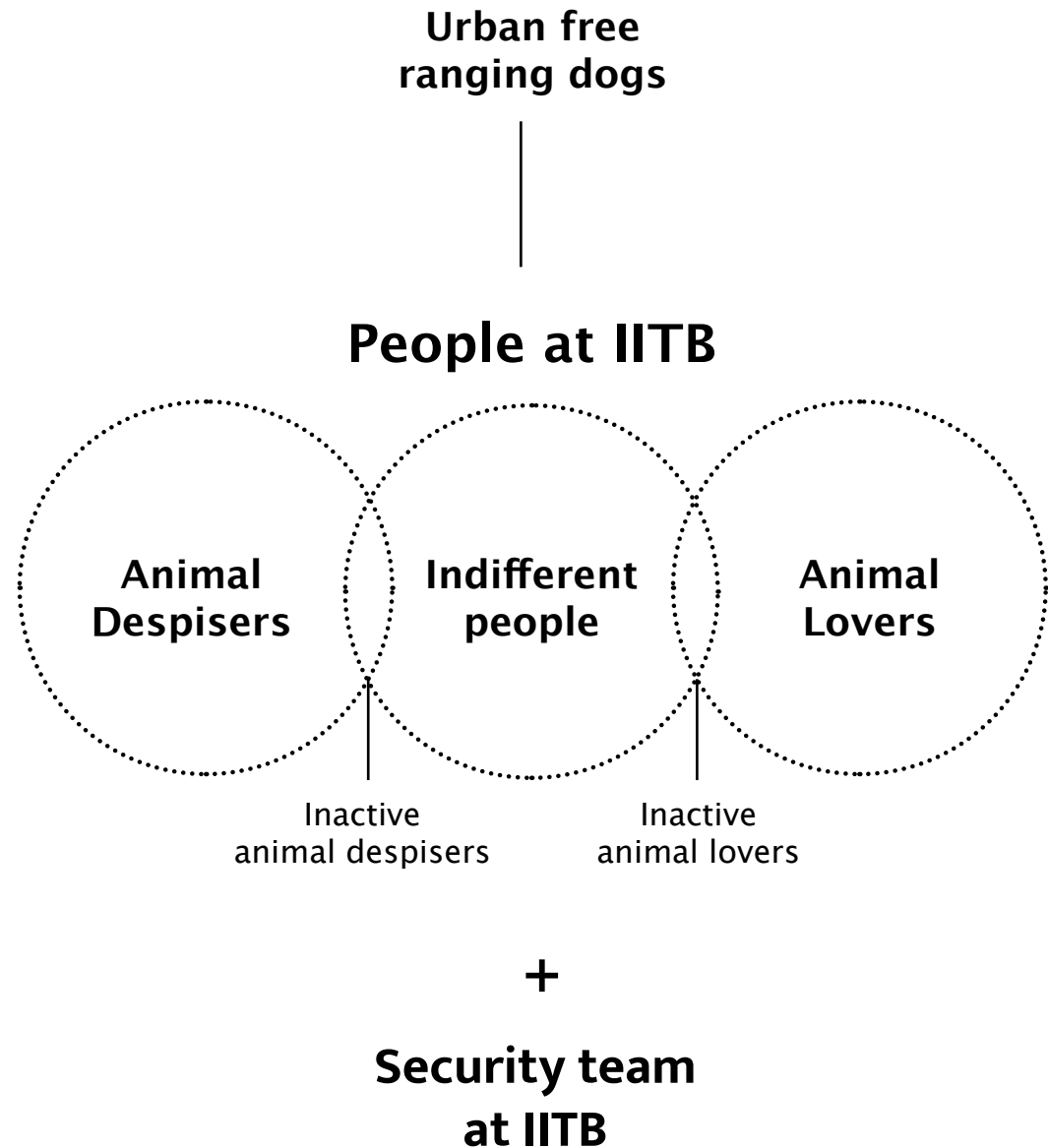
The IIT-Bombay campus is blessed with rich flora and fauna. It has a diverse community of animals; from birds, reptiles to dogs, cats, cows, etc.



There are more than 200 stray dogs on campus. The human-stray dog conflict, being the most prominent one amongst all such conflicts on campus, is the focus of the committee, as well as, my project.

An overview of the groups in IITB community involved in issues associated with the presence of stray dogs on campus and the various ways they respond to it.

A quick study of the origin of the issue in context with the human-stray dog interaction at IIT-B.



A closer look

Research methods

In order to understand the reasons behind the conflict over the issue of stray animals on campus, there was a dire need to reach out to the communities involved in the conflict and understand their own concerns and point of views on the issue. A more personal approach was needed to conduct such a research. Hence, choosing Qualitative research methods over the quantitative ones, seemed to be apt.

Qualitative research

It is primarily exploratory research. It is used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations. It provides insights into the problem or helps to develop ideas or hypotheses for potential quantitative research. Unlike quantitative research methods, qualitative data does not emphasize on numeric data collection and analysis. Qualitative approach is often contrasted with quantitative approach, which is the examination, analysis and interpretation of observations for the purpose of discovering underlying meanings and patterns of relationships, including classifications of types of phenomena and

entities, in a manner that does not involve mathematical models or is too rigidly dependent on numbers. Getting further into the precise research approach, that exists within the broader category of qualitative research, there was a need for the surveys or interviews to have a more precise tone.

From the available variations, phenomenological methods were found to be the most suitable, as they consider subjectivity as a major factor. Taking into consideration, the objective of the project, which is to understand the perspectives of all groups in the IITB community, that has had issues with the presence of strays on campus, a phenomenological approach is apt since, it focuses on the individual experiences hence, focus on the ideologies and behavioural patterns responsible for the perpetuation of the conflict.

A phenomenological study

This study method describes the meaning for several individuals of their lived experiences of a concept or a phenomenon. Phenomenologists focus on describing what all participants have in common

as they experience a phenomenon (for instance, grief is universally experienced).

The basic purpose of phenomenology is to reduce individual experiences with a phenomenon to a description of the universal essence.

Methods & techniques for collecting qualitative data

Data collection approaches for qualitative research usually involves:

- Direct interaction with individuals on a one to one basis.
- Or direct interaction with individuals in a group setting.

The benefits of the qualitative approach is that the information is richer and has a deeper insight into the phenomenon under study. The main methods for collecting qualitative data are :

Individual interviews

Qualitative interviews should be fairly informal and participants feel they are taking part in a conversation or discussion rather than in a formal question and answer situation.

Under this project a series of semi-structured (also called focus interviews) were conducted. A semi-structured format was preferred because it allows the interviewer to cover maximum topics and areas while maintaining the focus point of the interview.

Other types of formats that were considered but not chosen while conducting this research, were: Structured and Unstructured.

Observations

While studying the stray dogs' group, the only objective facility and research tool in hand was observation. When it comes to observing, scenarios may take place in natural settings and involve the researcher taking lengthy and descriptive notes of what is happening.

It is argued that there are limits to the situations that can be observed in their 'natural' settings and that the presence of the research may lead to problems with validity. Although in this case, the stray dogs were pretty indifferent to anyone's presence, that is if sufficient distance was maintained. Techniques used for data collection were; written notes, photographs and voice and video recordings. These notes were also substituted with interviews of dog volunteers in order to understand the issues faced by stray dogs entirely.

References

Apart from first-hand information through observations and second-hand information collected through interviews, a lot of second hand information from credible sources was also collected through self study of other relevant published and web material available.

Groups studied

People on campus with a say on the matter or were involved in any other way, were classified into broad groups for study purpose, and from thereon a more personalised enquiry was made into the concerns expressed.

Dog lovers

People who like stray dogs or advocate their right to co-exist on the campus were broadly categorized under the category of dog lovers. There were further classifications found through further studies, which were considered while working on solutions.

Dog despisers

People who unlike stray dogs or do not agree with the presence of stray dogs on campus were broadly categorized under the category of dog despisers. There too, were further classifications found through further studies, which were considered while working on solutions.

Security team at IIT

The security team forms the aid available on campus to deal with most conflicts, including the conflict over the presence of stray dogs on campus. They were put under a separate category, because unlike other groups that act on opinions or mindsets, they respond to instructions and manuals.

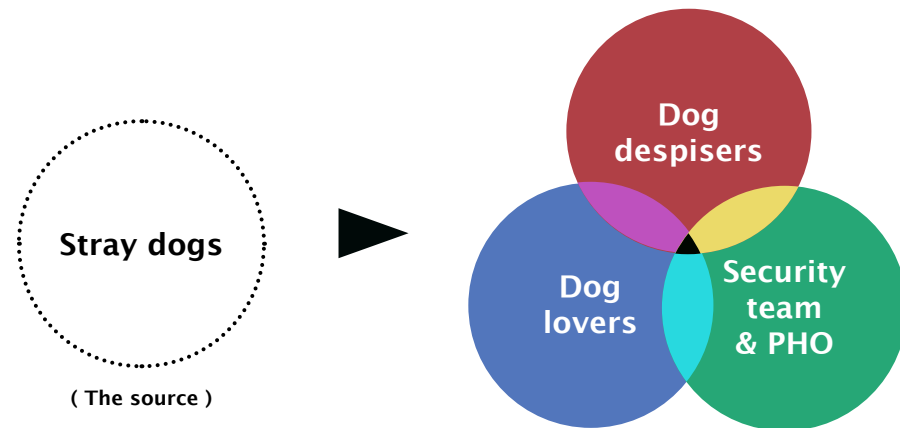
Stray dogs

The last group, comprising of all stray animals present on IITB campus, was of course studied and understood through observation and factual studies.

Approaches considered while mapping the issues, based on what is considered as the source of issues

1 From strays to people

Under the first scenario, stray dogs were considered source of the issue and the concerns over presence of stray dogs on campus specified by each group in IITB community, were recorded accordingly.





Studying the first cluster of people

Interviews / Questions :

- Name, age, gender, profession.
- Personal stand on the animal issue.
- Preferred mode of communication :
Telephonic calls?
Social Apps?
Emails? Post?
- Owned a pet before?
- Been around animals (Wild or Domesticated) while growing up?
- Any recent experiences on campus? Pleasant or hostile?
- Willingness to contribute to a solution?

- Report an injured dog? Take action? Or ignore thinking it will be taken care of?
- Stop a person from hitting an animal? Report it?
- Self-initiated measures?

(Volunteers)

- How much of time or efforts, one has been dedicating to the cause?
- Major activities undertaken? (Sequence based on priorities)
- Issues faced while volunteering?
- Approach undertaken when dealing with people with different viewpoint on the matter?
- Equipped with right knowledge?

Key assessments :

- Lot of **confusion** and inability to catch up on the plan of action.
- **Unorganized** structure, very **less communication** with other volunteers, no account of who is doing what at any given moment.
- Hard to get sufficient help in **urgent situations**.
- **Lack of commitment** to the cause.
- **Unequipped** with the full set of knowledge or resources needed to volunteer.
- No easily available platform to utilize.
- May or may not commit to the cause fully.

“ I buy Dharma cookies from the canteen every now and then.”

“ I don’t know how to make this hyper stray dog stop jumping on me.”

“ Animal haters do indeed hate animals and they need to be called just that.”

“ Animal haters do indeed hate animals and they need to be called just that.”

“ We don’t have any medical facility available for treating the dogs on campus. We rely too much on external sources.”

“ I am comfortable around stray dogs. But if I am ever in situation wherein a stray is aggressive to me, I wouldn’t know how to deal with it. Yes, I have been bitten once.”

“ My neighbors beat up the stray dog that I feed, whenever it comes to my door. We often get into fights because of that. I don’t know how to stop my neighbor from hitting the dog.”

“ I usually feed a stray off my plate if it lingers for food. ”

“ I love dogs but they turn dustbins over at night. Maybe they could do something about just that, and let dogs stay in the hostel lobby otherwise.”

“ As a volunteer, it’s hard for me to reach out to other volunteers. Most of the times, you need a quick reach.’

“ Whenever I see an injured dog, I don’t know how to help or who to contact, the security guards don’t have much to help us with.”





Studying the second cluster of people

Interviews / Questions :

- Name, age, gender, profession.
- Personal stand on the animal issue.
- Preferred mode of communication : Telephonic calls? Social Apps? Emails? Post?
- Owned a pet before?
- Been around animals (Wild or Domesticated) while growing up? Any recent experiences on campus? Pleasant or hostile?

- Major issues, experiences at IIT?
- Reactions to slightly uncomfortable situations like noise or littering : Report it?
- Self-initiated measures?
- Reactions to hostile/highly hostile situations like being chased, aggressive behavior? Report it? Take self-initiated measures?
- Have you ever reported a hostile event? Would you report if provided with a platform?

Key assessments :

- Hostility, annoying behavior, littering, etc.
- Only in some cases, self-initiated actions like, being mildly hostile, attacking back, were taken.
- No official / consistent platform available to report at.
- No actions taken, despite complaining.
- People willing to use the platform if proven useful.

“ Dogs are terrible, they are so aggressive. I have had terrible experiences with strays, especially. I can’t even use the bench I used to sit on, because a dog sleeps under it now.”

“ Stray dogs run behind my vehicle very aggressively and it’s terrifying.”

“ There is a pack of stray dogs near my house, they should be removed. I don’t want my son to be bitten. My son is everything to me.”

“ I usually panic or become hyper when a dog jumps at me.”

“ There are so many dogs in this campus. I feel threatened when see them in my space.”

“ Strays stink.”

“ There are visitors from other countries here all the time. If they see strays roaming around in the campus, it’ll be leaving a very bad impression on them.”

“ Dogs create a mess here almost every night and it needs to be stopped. They should not be allowed to enter the hostel.”

“ I am terrified of dogs in general. Why should I be around them.”

“ They bark so much, creating nuisance in the society.”

“ I will kill a dog if I have to, and no one can do anything about it.”

“ I am angered by the fact that people advocate allowing dogs in classrooms. It’s distracting absolutely unnecessary. ”





Studying the third cluster of people

Interviews / Questions :

- Name, age, gender, profession.
- Personal stand on the animal issue.
- Preferred mode of communication?
- Action plan in case of reporting of dog bite / aggressive dog?
- Action plan in case of reporting of an injured or ill dog?
- Knowledge on animal rights?
- Resources for handling such situations?
- Any recent incidence wherein any animal was injured / hostile to a human / creating nuisance and help was called for?
- Opinion on the presence of animals on campus?

Key assessments :

- No knowledge on animal rights or dog behavior.
- No information on how to deal with an injured animal.
- No clarity on who to contact for establishing higher authority.
- Repetitive cleaning work.

“ Whenever we get a call from someone about any animal related issue, we don’t really know how to help. We only have a few contact details of animal hospital which we provide the caller with or call at ourselves.”

“ Recently a bull had fallen into a pit. We called up the fire brigade, who helped us save the bull. ”

“ PHO – We never really knew that you can’t hit a dog.”

“ I just scare the dogs with a stick whenever I have to make them leave.”

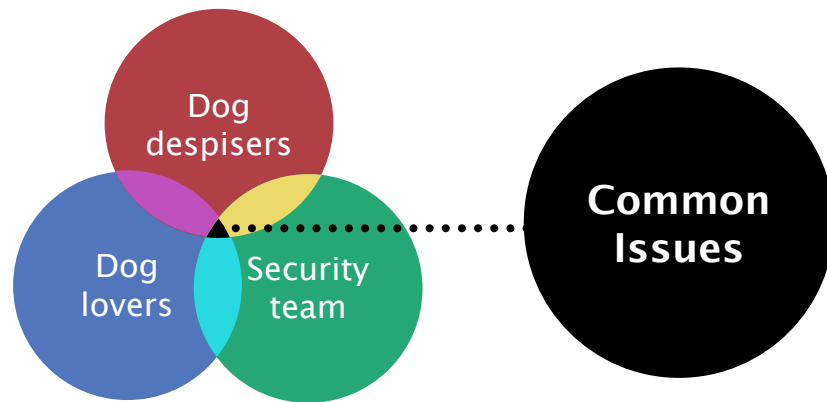
“ Dogs make the surroundings dirty and we have to clean it up each time. It’s just a lot of extra work for us.”

“ PHO – We are not trained to handle the animal issue on campus. We do whatever works”



Mapping of issues

Stray ► People



Public health issues

- Zoonosis disease transmission.
- Bite occurrences / aggressive behavior.

Environmental contamination

- Deposit of excreta in areas inhabited by people.
- Scavenging for food in dustbins.

Nuisance Factors

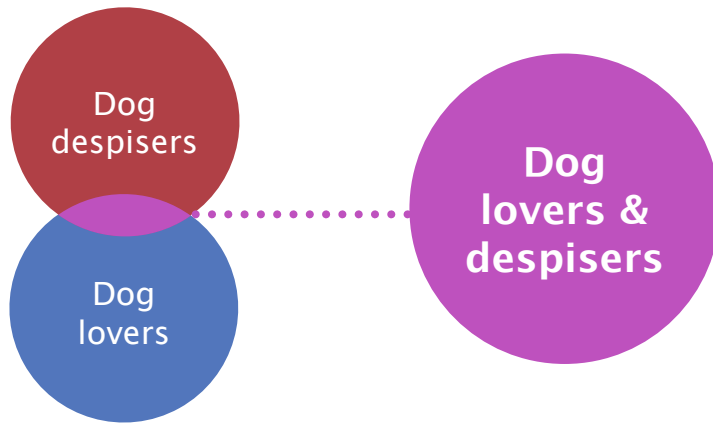
- Noise, barking.
- Damage to public property.

Communication issues

- No formal plan of action in a case of an emergency.

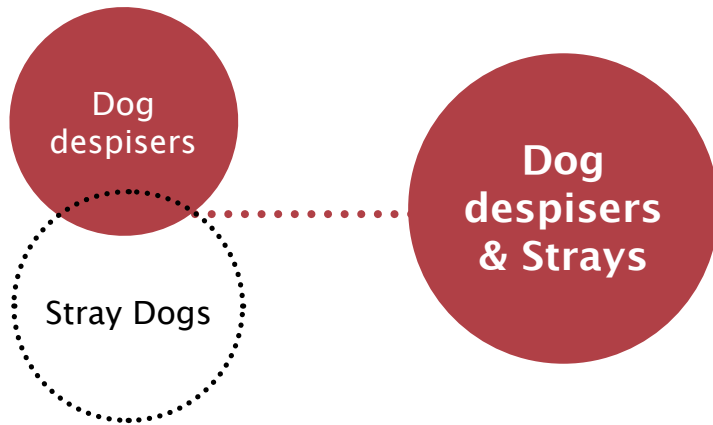
Lack of knowledge

- On dog behavior.
- On animal rights.



Intolerance

- Difference in opinions & following clashes due to lack of mutual respect, empathy & tolerance.

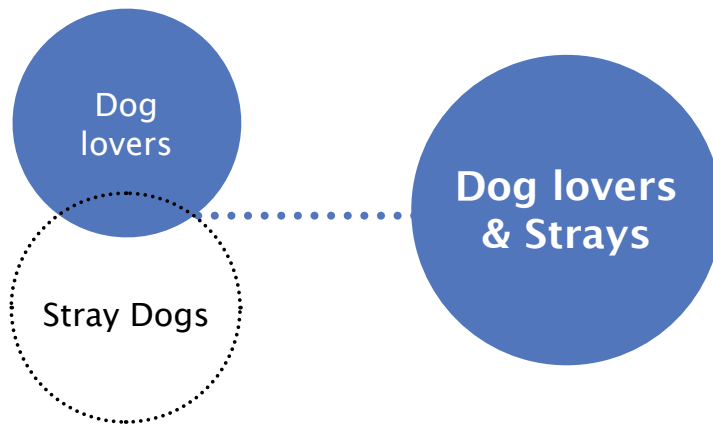


Personal bias

- Irrational fear / prejudices.

Aesthetic factors

- Aesthetics / Stigma / Prejudices.
- Odor.



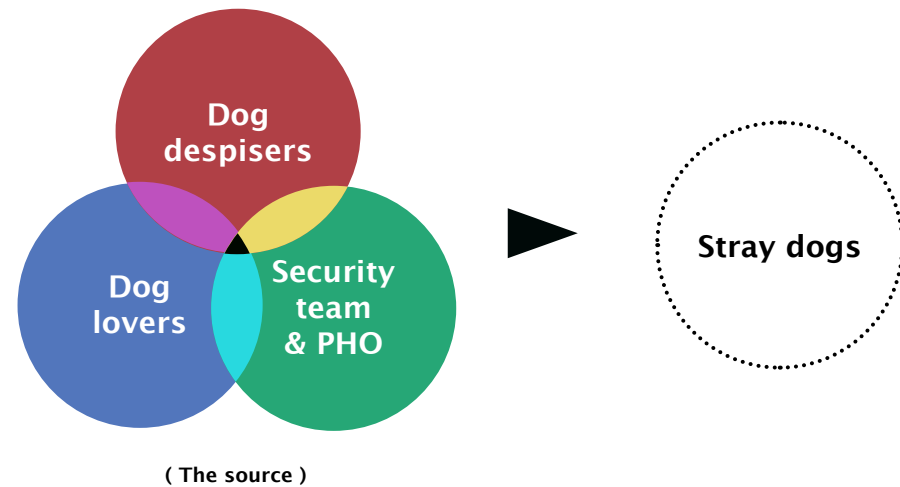
Lack of effective connectivity

- No official platform to connect to other volunteers.

Approaches considered while mapping the issues, based on what is considered as the source of issues

2 From people to strays :

Under the second scenario, people were considered the source of issues faced by stray dogs on campus from all groups on campus, irrespective of their stand on the matter. This approach involved studying dog needs and behavior through observation and factual study.



**Dogs found
in IIT-B**

Dogs today

(Based on ownership)

Free ranging dogs
Dogs that are
not contained

Owned dogs
Dogs that owned as well
as contained by the owner

Stray Dogs
Dogs that were once
owned and later, were
lost or abandoned.

Feral Dogs
Dogs that were never
owned, and hence are
harder to tame.

Community Dogs
Dogs that are partially /
fully owned, but
not contained.

True wild dogs
Dogs which have become
more wild rather than
simply feral.

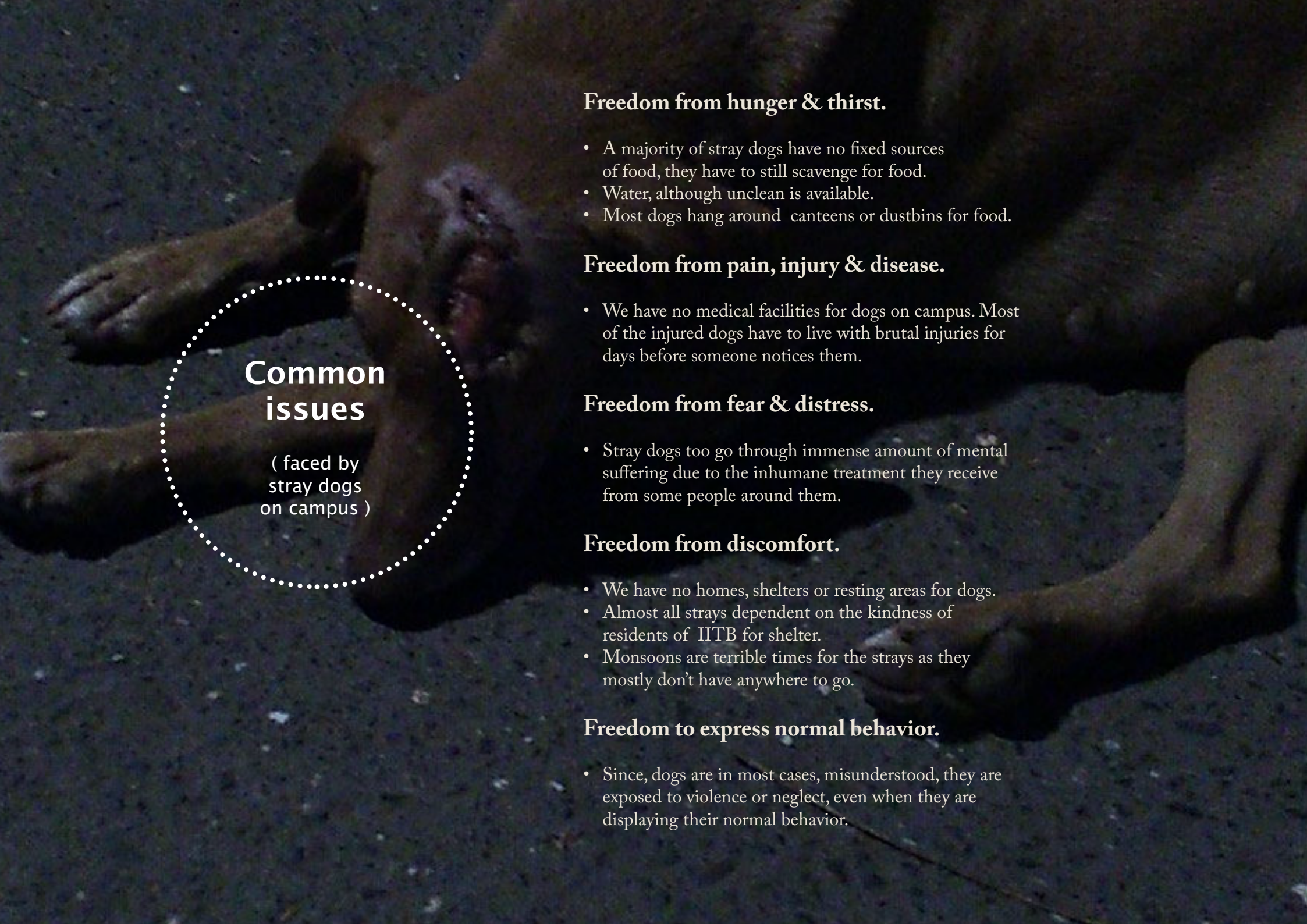
Issues : People ► Strays

A COMPROMISE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

THE FIVE FREEDOMS

The welfare of an animal includes its physical and mental state. Stray dogs, just like any other living being too have needs that should be fulfilled in order for them to lead a normal life. All issues that stray dogs face, arise out of the failure to meet these needs. These five freedoms, that were developed in 1965, later adopted by many organizations and governments including the World Organization for Animal Health, as well as the Indian Government, are as follows :

- **Freedom from hunger & thirst** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
- **Freedom from pain, injury & disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom from fear & distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.
- **Freedom from discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom to express normal behavior** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.



Common issues

(faced by
stray dogs
on campus)

Freedom from hunger & thirst.

- A majority of stray dogs have no fixed sources of food, they have to still scavenge for food.
- Water, although unclean is available.
- Most dogs hang around canteens or dustbins for food.

Freedom from pain, injury & disease.

- We have no medical facilities for dogs on campus. Most of the injured dogs have to live with brutal injuries for days before someone notices them.

Freedom from fear & distress.

- Stray dogs too go through immense amount of mental suffering due to the inhumane treatment they receive from some people around them.

Freedom from discomfort.

- We have no homes, shelters or resting areas for dogs.
- Almost all strays dependent on the kindness of residents of IITB for shelter.
- Monsoons are terrible times for the strays as they mostly don't have anywhere to go.

Freedom to express normal behavior.

- Since, dogs are in most cases, misunderstood, they are exposed to violence or neglect, even when they are displaying their normal behavior.

Biased solutions?

Breed specific legislations?

This refers to laws pertaining to (banning of ownership or breeding of) certain kind of breeds that are considered hostile.

- Many jurisdictions in the United States and Canada have the right to enact breed-specific legislation in a bid to ensure public safety from dog attacks.
- However, the appropriateness and effectiveness of breed-specific legislation in preventing dog bite fatalities and injuries is disputed.

Why it wasn't very effective?

- All these laws have done is to perpetuate uninformed stereotypes, ignoring the obvious fact that dogs are individuals capable of a variety of emotions & behaviours; and that, no breed is inherently good or evil.

According to a research by CDC, many factors, beyond the breed, such as, reproductive status, training, early experience, hereditary causes, etc, can affect a dog's tendency towards aggression.

Culling?

Culling means to reduce the population of (an animal) by selective slaughter. (*Until recently, culling prevailed as the primary dog population control method).

- When confronted with something as severe as a rabies outbreak, some governments often turn to what they think is the cheapest, easiest and most effective way to eliminate rabies.
- However, research has shown that killing methods have failed to control such outbreaks in many countries.

Why culling doesn't pay in the long term:

- The spread of rabies does not depend on the density of dogs.
- Dogs will quickly repopulate areas after dogs have been removed through culling.

Removing dogs?

Removing dogs entails capturing stray dogs and moving them to a new territory.

- **Moving dogs to another populated area.**

Dogs being released in a new territory will create distress in the area in which they are released, leading to aggressive behaviour in that area. Meanwhile, the original territories left vacant, will be occupied by new stray / feral.

- **Moving dogs into the wild.**

Impacts of dogs on wildlife populations can be quite negative. Dogs harass or kill wildlife, and compete with endemic species. They can significantly disrupt or modify intact ecosystems well beyond the areas occupied by people.

Shared solutions?

Could a sensible, humane, approach to solving a self-created problem, rather than getting rid of it entirely via biased methods be the solution that could ease out the human animal conflict ?

Why go for shared solutions?

- **Protection for people.**

As mentioned, research has shown that culling or removal doesn't work. In case of a severe situation, a more humane approach like, mass dog vaccination, together with effective management of disease risk in humans, is the only sustainable and most effective solution.

- **Economical.**

A recent study compared the effects of mass vaccination with culling/removal of a percentage of the dog population. Results indicated that vaccinating 70% of dog population was more profitable and cost effective. (Comparison between outcomes of

two scenarios; the least cost effective being culling which included, the cost of mass culling, dog bites and human post exposure prophylaxis {PEP}, effect of human death creating huge financial drains on family).

- **Animal rights.**

Fear causes cruelty. However, cruel methods have been proven to be unsustainable. Evidence suggests that where mass dog vaccination programmes are implemented, people's attitudes to dogs and the dogs' welfare improves. Besides, the most important fact being, animals have the right to exist just as much as we do, is what should guide us on our behaviour towards animals, and there are laws to support that.

Important elements of shared solutions

Controlling dog population being the topmost priority, as high population is the main culprit for suffering of stray dogs.

Sterilisation Programmes

Equipping people with necessary knowledge on such matters.
(Educating volunteers, inactive animal lovers and animal haters)

Education on animal rights and animal psychology.

Improving health of dog population & reducing risks of zoonotic diseases.

Vaccination Programmes.

Increasing accountability.
A shift from **Feral and stray dogs** to community pets.

Responsible dog ownership.

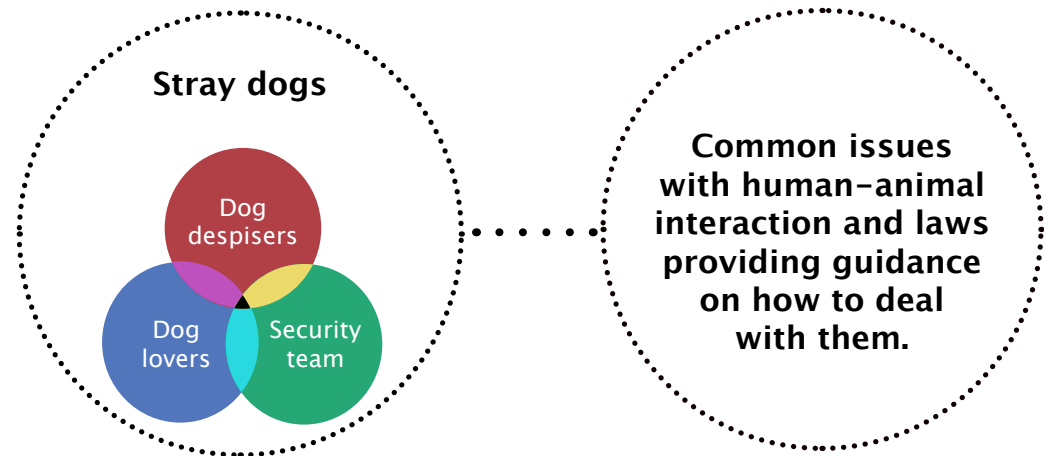
Animal Rights

The Indian scenario

Animal rights and its advocates challenge society's traditional view that all non-human animals exist solely for human use. There is a growing understanding in society of the importance of respect and protection for animals as an indicator of moral standards. Animal protection has become an important ethical and political issue commanding global interest. As mentioned earlier, it is also now covered by a growing body of international standards (under the aegis of the World Organization for Animal Health), which have been agreed by governments.

In India too, constant efforts have been made to enforce strict application and following of animals rights, by people, which has thus entailed the establishment of Animal Welfare Board of India, in 1962, the first of its kind to be established by any Government in the world, in accordance with Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Acts 1960.

Very recently, the Supreme Court in India, exhorted the Parliament to “elevate



rights of animals to that of Constitutional Rights, as done by many of the countries around the world, so as to protect their dignity and honor.”

The Five Freedoms of animals, outline five aspects of animal welfare under human control. These five freedoms are considered to be the fundamental principles of animal welfare and we can say that these freedoms find a place in Sections 3 and 11 of PCAAct and they are for animals like the rights guaranteed

to the citizens of this country under Part III of the Constitution of India.

Animal rights, despite being a part of the Indian constitution, have not been followed uniformly across India. Similar observations of deprivation and exploitation of animals and their were made on the campus of IITB too.

Case study

Stray issue in Hostel 10

.....

In the month of September 2015, there was a heated argument amongst the residents of **Hostel 10 of IITB**, over whether dogs should be allowed to stay within the premises of the hostel or not. Many complains were lodged on the basis of the following issue :



- Issue of dogs littering in the corridors by turning the dustbins over in an effort to scavenge for food.
- Dogs being impatient and annoying around people in general.
- Some residents also reported dogs being aggressive. However, it was not clear if the aggressive behavior of

the dogs was perceived or objectively analyzed and reported.

Soon after such complains were shared over e-mails and messages, a petition was launched and signed by people protesting against the stray dogs of the hostel and people who supported them.

Specifics of the petition:

The petition that was signed by more than a hundred residents of hostel 10 **demandd to not let the stray dogs enter the hostel premises and to ban feeding of stray dogs anywhere inside or around the hostel.** The petition was strongly opposed by animals / dog lovers residing in the same hostel on the grounds of animal cruelty.

A closer look at the demands made in the petition :

The matter was then taken to the Dean of IITB, where the following legal information on animal rights of was brought to notice :

1. In 1972 the Indian Constitution

(Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, specific provisions to protect & improve the environment, and protect animal rights.

2. Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act makes **all animal cruelty a criminal offence.** Fines and imprisonment are both provided for. The Indian Penal Code has similar provisions.
3. There is **no law that prohibits the feeding of street animals.** Citizens/animal welfare volunteers who choose to do so are in fact performing a duty cast upon them by the Constitution of India (Article 51AG) – of showing compassion to all living creatures.
4. Under Section 506 of the IPC, it's a **crime to threaten, abuse or harass neighbors who feed animals.**
5. The Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001, enacted under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, **prohibits relocation of stray**

dogs, i.e. throwing, or driving them out of one area, into another.

6. Under Stray Dog Management Rules 2001, it's illegal for an individual, RWA or estate management to remove or relocate dogs. The dogs have to be sterilized and vaccinated and returned to the same area. **Vaccinated and sterilized dogs cannot be removed** by the municipality too.

The petition, written primarily due to lack knowledge on animal rights and rules for welfare, was later rejected on legal grounds and other rules were formed to control the situation, keeping the benefit of strays in mind too. The new rules included :

1. Prohibiting anyone to take stray dogs into the hostel rooms.
2. Prohibiting residents from feeding stray dogs within the hostel premises. Feeding is now only allowed outside the hostel gates at a specified location (Although the location has not been specified yet).

3. People are also requested to keep the doors leading to the staircase shut, in order to prevent dogs from scavenging for food from the dustbins in the hostel corridors.
4. In case if any of the above mentioned rules are defied, submission of two photographs of the act as proof are required to impose penalty.

Follow up :

- The results have been slow to appear, but effective to a certain extent.
- The dogs are calmer & littering has reduced, although, only to a small extent up to this point. The doors to the staircase are usually left open leading stray dogs to the hostel corridor dustbins. The security guards haven't taken much efforts to avoid this from happening.
- Recently, one of the stray dogs in the hostel was neutered too, and has been calmer and more composed around people since.

- The new set of rules printed and put up in the hall, aren't very easily noticeable either, as they usually get lost in the sea of other pamphlets.
- The rules aren't too specific either.
- All efforts have been put in only by a few stray dog supporters. Rest of the community hasn't actively participated in animal welfare activities, putting the entire burden on a few volunteers. Mostly, the strays stay hungry and go into the hostel building looking for food in the dustbins.
- Efforts put in by the volunteers involved, were not credited or appreciated.

The situation, if not better, is not worse than before either. People have been harmonious since the issue was resolved, however, every now and then, if not often, complaints are indeed made over similar issues, which are now dealt with an approach that takes into consideration, every group residing in Hostel 10, including the stray population.

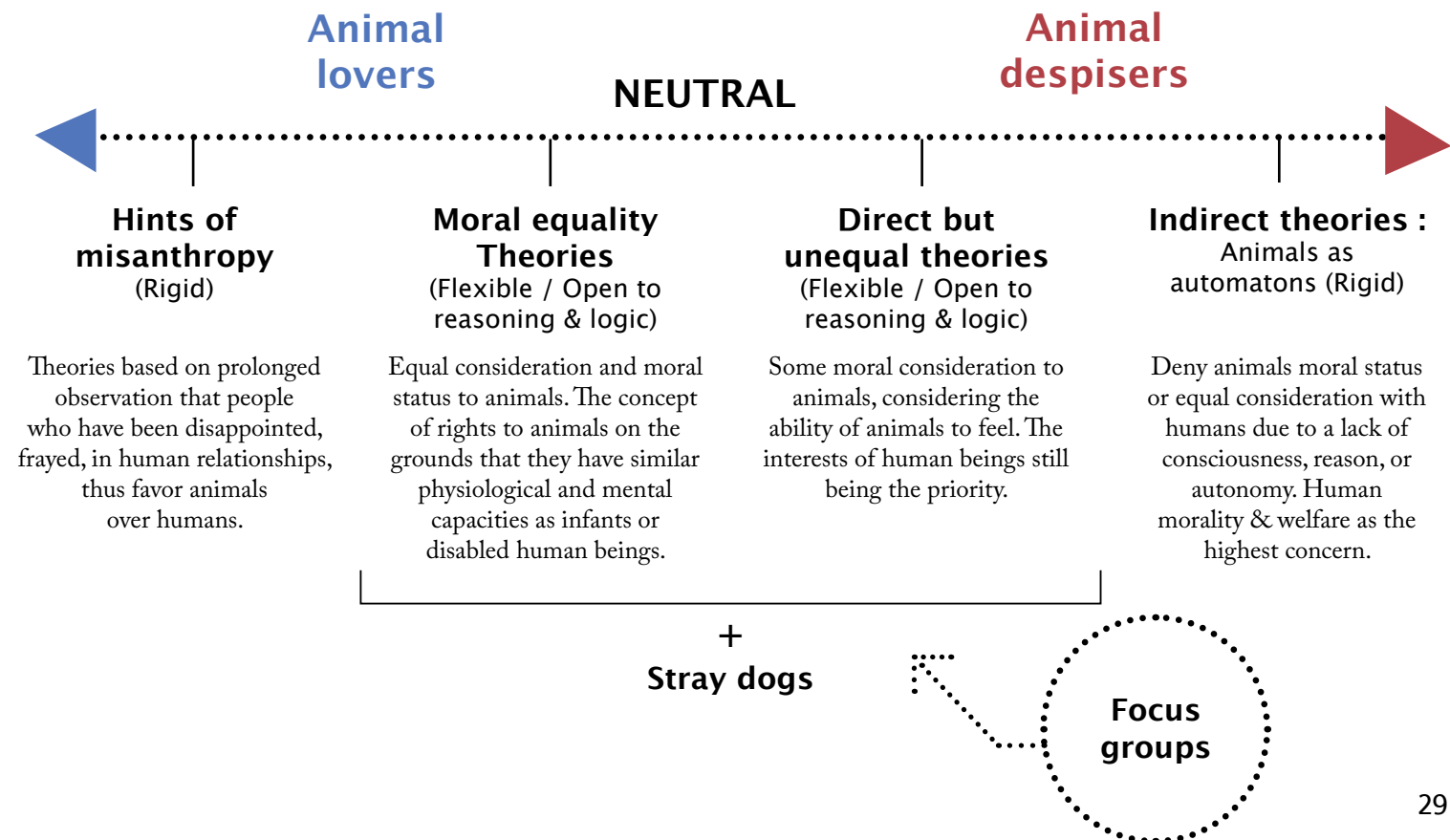
A photograph of two women and a dog. The woman on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a purple patterned top. The woman on the right has dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue shirt. A golden retriever is in the foreground, looking at the camera with its mouth open. They are all smiling. The background is a plain wall and a white door.

ARRIVING ON SHARED SOLUTIONS

Understanding the target groups.

Spectrum of people

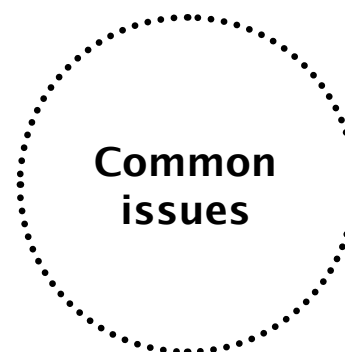
Spectrum of people based on their opinion on importance or need for animal welfare, and it's connection to ethics : **A better understanding of the target audience.**



Focus area

There are multiple layers to the conflict studied. The issues were found to be way more complex than what could be seen on the surface. Among all the issues understood and analyzed, I chose to work on certain aspects that were at the very base of the whole conflict. Fear and ignorance, one of the most basic causes behind animal cruelty, were the ones that,

I felt, needed the most amount of attention. Hence, my solutions are focused on understanding dog behavior and hence equipping them with the right knowledge and resources, thus eliminating the fear of what is not known. Such solutions are also aimed at making communication better between people with opposing ideas.



Public health issues

Reducing bite occurrences and other dog behavior related issues.

Lack of knowledge

On dog behavior.
On animal rights.

Intolerance

Facilitating conversations on intolerance.

Freedom from discomfort

Providing stray dogs with basic food and medical facilities.

The emotional quotient

Visual/verbal cues for content :
Understanding what appeals to the groups concerned and what drives their stand on the matter, helped determine the tone of the content and visual specifics of the solutions offered.

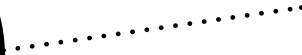
Friendship Humor
Confusion **DOG** Pampering
Anger **LOVERS** Love
Play Connection

Helplessness
Fear Assurance
Anger **DOG** Prejudices
DESPICERS Hatred
Repulsion Quick results

A photograph of two dogs on a light-colored tiled floor. In the foreground, a light-colored dog is curled up, facing away from the camera. In the background, a brown and white dog is sitting and looking towards the camera. A white dotted circle is centered in the image, containing the text "Proposed Solutions".

**Proposed
Solutions**

1



Lack of knowledge
On dog behavior.

**Public health
issues**
Reducing bite
occurrences.

A SERIES OF INFORMATIVE POSTERS.

**ON ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS (DEALING WITH AGGRESSIVE
ANIMAL BEHAVIOR.)**

ON TAKING PRIDE IN ANIMAL-FRIENDLY CAMPUS.

ETIQUETTES FOR DOGS.



(AND FOR YOU)

"Because dogs learn their
manners from YOU"

How to calm that HYPER DOG down?

Don't's X



• Don't pet it / push it



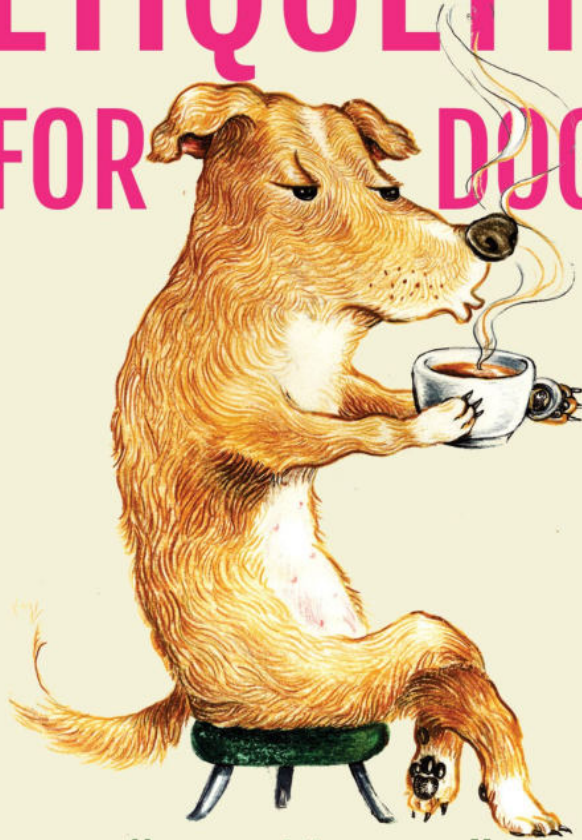
• Don't give it attention

DO's ✓



Ignore it

ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS



“ ... and for you ”

(because dogs learn their manners from you)

How to stop that dog from begging for the food you're eating?

Dogs beg when they are hungry or curious. Like any other scavenger, stray dogs are hardwired to seize any opportunity to get a bite of food. Here is how to stop it and make it behave.

DO's



Ignore the dog entirely. Become oblivious to it's presence. Simply wait for it to leave.



If the dog refuses to leave, then **turn your back** on it or walk away.



If you wish to feed it, give it only **dog food** at the specified location.



Have patience. Results will be slow to appear. **Consistent and uniform conduct** is crucial.

DON'Ts



Don't give it food off your plate. Most human food items are harmful to their digestive system.



Don't be aggressive around it. It will trigger behavioral issues in the dog.

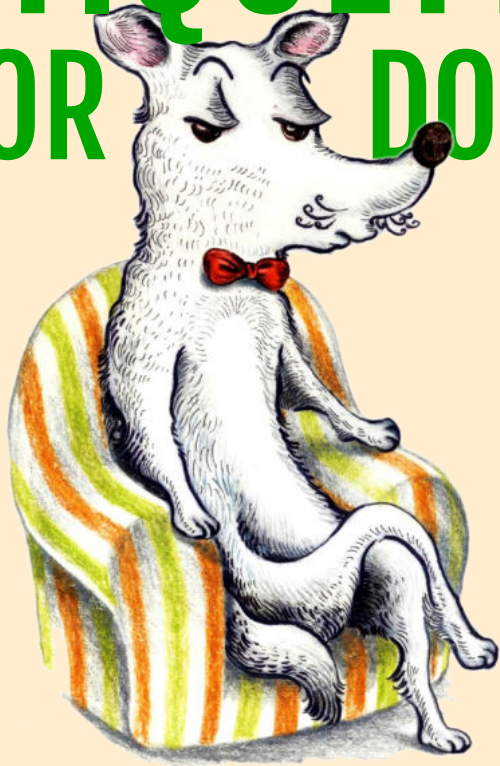


Don't talk to the dog. Don't even look at the dog. Don't give it any attention.



Don't feel guilty about not giving it your food. You are only doing it a favor. Donate dog food instead.

ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS



“ ... and for you ”
(because dogs learn their manners from you)

How to tell that hyper dog to not jump on you?

Dogs jump on you, mostly because that's how they say 'HELLO!' If they like you, they'll want to greet you by sniffing at your nose. Sometimes, they jump because you have something that they want and they want to nag you for it. Sometimes, it's just because they want your attention.

Here is how to make them behave.

DO's



Stay calm. Gently push it back and turn away. Don't look back, if you choose to walk away.



Reward it with your attention, **only after it sits down**. If it stands up again, **repeat the previous step**.



Be patient & consistent with your behavior around the dog. Results will be **slow to appear**.

DON'Ts



Don't reward it with your attention, while it's still jumping on you.



Don't be aggressive around it. It will trigger behavioral issues in the dog.



Don't even look at the dog. Any attention will encourage it to misbehave around you.

ETIQUETTE FOR DOGS



“ ... and for you ”
(because dogs learn their manners from you)

How to stop that aggressive dog from biting you?

Why do dogs bite?

- Possessiveness
- Fear
- Pain
- Maternal instincts
- Prey instincts.

DO's



Remain **motionless**, with your **hands at your side**. Tell the dog 'NO' in a very **firm voice** (Don't shout).



Slowly back away to a safe location, with a barrier between the dog and you.



If it appears as though the dog will inevitably attack, put anything in its path to **avoid its teeth**.

Signs of imminent bite.

- Dog suddenly becomes stiff.
- Dog stands with its front legs spread, head low, eyes on you.
- Dog shows its teeth.

DON'Ts



Resist the urge to scream or run. Running will only trigger its preying instincts.



Don't make eye contact or reciprocate with aggression. It will make the dog more anxious.



Don't approach a dog when it's alert-looking, eating or sleeping. **Respect its territory.**

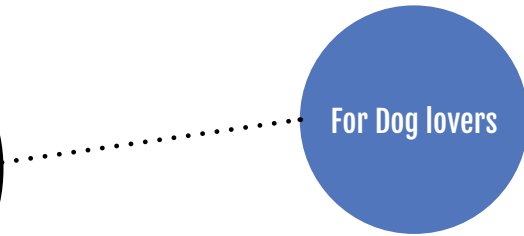


**Public health
issues**

Reducing bite
occurrences.

Lack of knowledge

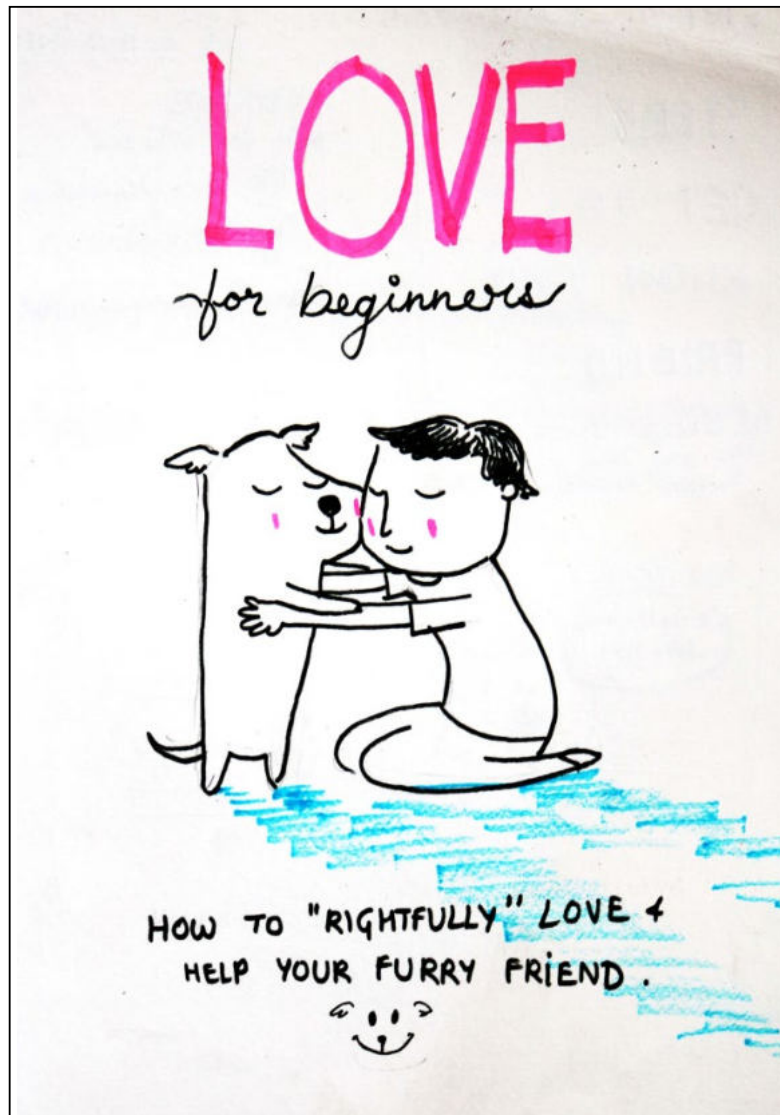
On dog behavior.
On animal rights.



2

AN INTRODUCTORY BOOK FOR VOLUNTEERS

**A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE
IMPORTANT AVENUES OF BEING A VOLUNTEER.**



CONTENTS .

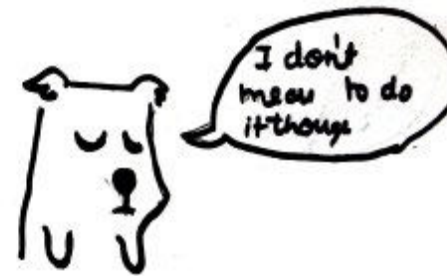
1. The **Good** & the **Bad**.
2. Understanding dog behaviour.
 - a. Body language.
 - b. Sounds.
3. How to communicate.
 - a. Basic training.
 - b. Staying consistent.

THE GOOD.



- Dogs are truly man's best friend.
- Dogs increase your mood dramatically!
- They keep you healthy too! Having a dog may help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.
- Humans with dogs recover more quickly from illnesses.
- They do good to the environment more than we know!

THE BAD.



- Dogs may carry zoonic diseases if not vaccinated or kept hygienic.
- They can be very difficult to deal with, if not trained on a basic level.
- If they were born stray, it may be hard for you to train them or be friends with them.
- They may need their own space, if they aren't familiar with your presence.

FINAL OUTPUT

STICKERS

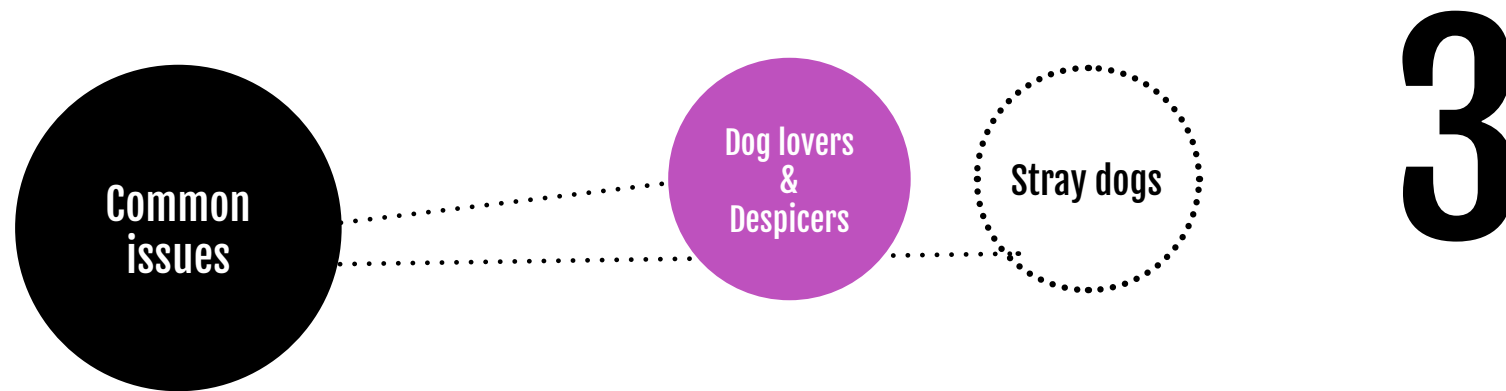


12-FOLD SCROLL









Lack of knowledge
On dog behavior.

**Freedom from
discomfort**
Providing a shelter with
basic food and medical
facilities.

THE CANTEEN SITUATION

**PROVIDING AN SYSTEM TO FACILITATE
PEACEFUL INTERACTIONS.**

FINAL OUTPUT

STICKERS







Difference in opinion.

Allowing dogs in IDC.

Lack of knowledge

On dog behavior.
On animal rights.

PROVIDING STRAY DOGS WITH AN ALTERNATIVE

- Establishing a shelter or a resting spot for dogs equipped with a constant supply of food and basic medical aid in order to encourage them to stay outside the academic building.



PROPOSED LOCATION

- **Funding of food** : A food donation box installed near the canteen.
- Sturdier / spill proof / Covered dustbins could be used, so that strays aren't attracted to it as a feasible source of food.
- A basic Medical kit.
- Consistent behavior & fixed feeding spots.

A Broader view

Human–animal coexistence

“Mistreatment of animals is a situation, a morally conflicted one.”

However, in many cultures / scenarios, that accept it as a way of life, it is not considered a problem*. Hence, there is none.

Now that human-animal conflict on campus, has been referred to as a problem, the real issue that the project intends to cater to, is the coexistence of these conflicting groups (debating over the cause of animal welfare) within the confines of IITB.

Conclusions

This project has been a great learning experience and an eye-opener too. The solutions were neither simple, nor was was the application linear. Getting deeper into the issues faced by both people and stray dogs on campus, the most important conclusion was that the reason at the base most problems might just be the same, that is lack of compassion.

The bigger picture

To understand this, let's look at the bigger picture of the issues our world is facing today, instead of focusing on the smaller local situation of conflict over strays at IITB. What are the biggest issues that our times are facing today?

Racism could be one. It has been a major issue for a very long time now. Recently, the current prime minister of UK, David Camron was quoted blaming terrorism on normative Islam, which is based on stereotypical assumptions of the conveyor-belt theory. He proposed counter-extremism policies as a solution for the issue. It, of course was dealt with criticism for it's biased and reductive approach. Most middle eastern

countries, on the other hand, blame the western countries for the inception & perpetuation of terrorism, feeding to the already existing monster of hatred towards the westerns.

Off late, there have been growing instances of shooting of African American people in USA, too. Who is to be blamed? The very real and widely practised phenomenon of "White privilege". People of color in that country have held it responsible for their suffering. While on the other hand, the conservative republican white population has always blamed people of color for taking away their jobs & spreading communal violence. The very recent migrant crisis in the European countries is based on the same fears.

India has had it's share of controversies too. Sometime back, many performers that come from the country of Pakistan were not allowed to perform in India, over the issue of the controversial book release. Also, the threats they received were quite appalling. The well known recent incident of the killing of a Muslim man for storing and consuming beef, has

spurred fears of rising Hindu nationalism in today's India. The mob committed the crime to send a very clear message across : Religious groups that fundamentally differ or don't comply with the rules of the opposing religious cult, are not to be welcomed and will be dealt with verbal / physical violence and intolerance.

So many issues in different parts of the world. There is a lot of blaming and finger pointing going on everywhere, and it's hard to put a finger on who is really responsible, but can you spot anything common in all of the issues? Yes, it's intolerance. Intolerance definitely is one of the major fundamental reasons at the root of all such issues. The unwillingness to accommodate the slightest discomfort caused due to any differences is on the rise in today's times. If only, we could understand, that differences in opinions is inevitable, and in order to coexist, we need to be more open and accepting, the world would be a better place to live in, wouldn't it?

The IITB Conflict

The conflict in IITB, arising out of the issue of animal welfare, is fundamentally no different from the above mentioned issues. If we are to objectively look at the conflict itself, the fundamental culprit here too, is intolerance, or to be more contextual, the unwillingness of an animal hater to validate the concerns of an animal lover, and vice versa, thus, only paying half-hearted attention or being inconsiderate to the real suffers in the conflict here, the animals. There are of course solutions that are being applied in a fragmented way across the campus, but what has still stopped us from agreeing to those solutions or effectively executing those solutions, apart from other major reasons, is intolerance.

IIT houses around 7000 people and more than a hundred species of animals & birds. Some ideologically similar groups of people here with a common concern for animals, feel the need to express their gratitude, & their love for animals. While, the other group of people in IIT have different priorities, animal welfare is not one of them. And, really, it should totally be okay for them to have those other priorities. Why should there be a conflict then?

Looking at various groups that coexist within the confines of the campus, namely, animal lovers, animal haters, indifferent people, and the animal community itself, the solutions that work for such communities also vary. But favouring solutions that only cater to the anxieties of one particular group is a biased move and hence won't be effective in resolving the conflict.

Connecting the dots.

The real solution has its roots in tolerance and acceptance.

We can start with accepting one simple, objective truth that is applicable to both animal haters & animal lovers. We, as humans, have been dependent on the exploits of animals for as long as we have existed. We have abused them, killed them, disarranged them, used them to our own advantages for various reasons. Despite it all, there is sheer lack of basic gratitude. It's about time, we must get-off our high-horses and acknowledge the fact that we are, indeed, a species that is dependent on its surroundings. We do indeed, owe it all a lot, way more than what we would like to accept. Sure, the cause of animal welfare doesn't have to be the moral priority for everyone, but it does

'need' to be a common concern to our entire community. When we deal with an ideologically different group based on their positioning on the issue of animal welfare, we must not be intolerant too. The situation isn't entirely black or white. We all need a little fixing.

Sure, there are threats associated with coexisting with animals. For instance, some dogs have been rightfully reported to have shown aggressive behaviour. There indeed are health concerns associated with strays. But, does that mean we get rid of them all, and take actions based on stereotypical assumptions. Is it not unreasonable for one particular religious group to act violently and hostile towards other religious groups based on a few exceptional cases of violence. Why not focus on fixing the issues, rather than destroying the source that causes the minutest discomfort? Animals too must not be exposed to this sort of reductive and demeaning logic. We must realise that all lives matter, including the ones that we have built our empire upon.

Looking at the community that supports the cause, animal lovers have so far passionately defended the cause. But do they need to stop listening or be inconsiderate to the concerns of people

who aren't comfortable around animals, just because a few of them have vocalised concerns built on baseless arguments or a sense of superiority in our own species? Some of such people, no matter how aggressive, are indeed stating concerns over public health threats that come with having strays around. Whether it's fear, irrationality or real issues, that are causing the conflict, they all need to be dealt with and, hence, must be heard. Nonetheless, we must learn to steer such problem-solving conversations in a positive and safe direction, so that they actually reach out to whosoever we are speaking with on the matter. We also need to look into our own treatment of animals too and see if it's really doing any good to them.

People who are uncomfortable around animals, need to introspect and understand the reason behind their stand on that matter. Beyond that reasoning, the approach they take to vocalise their concerns needs to be scrutinised too. Is it just on our part to criticise animal lovers for their priorities? The harsh truth is that we live in a society that considers the materialistic concerns of the human species as the 'real issues'. But can we not really take the effort to understand what is important beyond our own needs and respect it? Sure, it's an uncomfortable

situation to be in, when we have to reach a meeting on time and the stray dogs running behind our vehicles slow us down. Sure, it's inconvenient, if we have to slow down at every juncture. But is that more important than a life? The mental abilities of a dog is as close to a human child age of 2.5 years. They will almost always be notorious, unintentionally of course, because they are mentally incapable of understanding what is right, unless trained. It really is in our hands to choose to not slow down and never understand why we can't stop running in a life that will someday pass by in the blink of an eye...

We must all stay in this together, if we are to call ourselves a liberal society. We must respect each other to be able to validate our concerns and then, move on to understanding the concerns of the real sufferers here, which are the animals. Factually, animals are the ones who have suffered because of the most amount of intolerance and neglect.

Here is an opportunity for us, to not just learn the lesson of tolerance, but teach it to our children too and create a coming generation that doesn't repeat the same mistakes we did. Let's aim at creating a society that's free of fundamental issues

like racism, classism, or animal cruelty, to name a few. It sure, may or may not be achievable for most part, we don't know, but it sure is worth a sincere try. Tolerance, could just turn out to be the key to real happiness.

After all, it can't just be a coincidence that, most of the happiest countries in the world are also the most compassionate and kindest to their animals.

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