

Community Perceptions of Animal Welfare



A Survey

Summary

There are a large numbers of stray dogs in the Kathmandu Valley – close to 30,000 at any one time (including "community dogs"). Most of urban stray dogs are discarded pets, which have become sick, pregnant or developed aggressive behavior, or the offspring of such animals. Fear of rabies has also bred short-term, misinformed responses. All these factors and more have fed a complex serious stray dog problem for Nepal, which is more than ready for a humane, efficient and long-term solution.

Animal Nepal in 2008 initiated Animal Birth Control – Anti Rabies (ABC-AR) in Lalitpur district in the south of the Valley. In 2012 Animal Nepal piloted Catch Neuter Vaccinate and Release (CNVR), a community based camp in which dogs are neutered one day, and released the next. The camp is organised in close cooperation with the local community. One such camps was organised in Harisiddi, a Newar settlement. 58 dogs were neutered and ten dogs treated.



Harisiddi CNVR camp participants and volunteers

In order to assess community members' perception of animal welfare, Animal Nepal conducted a survey before and after organising the CNVR camp. The results were very encouraging, showing that even a single welfare intervention can have a lasting impact on community members' perceptions.

Main findings

- The number of people who think dogs are 'useful' goes up from 10 to 38% after CNVR camp
- Before CNVR all respondents face problems with stray dogs; after CNVR the percentage goes down to 62%
- The fear of rabies among people goes down from 60% to 13%
- The percentage of people seeking treatment for dogs goes up from 10% to 46%
- The percentage of people throwing water or stones at dogs decreases from 60% to 8%
- Before CNVR 50% of people ignore sick or injured dogs, after CNVR only 15% does so

Methodology

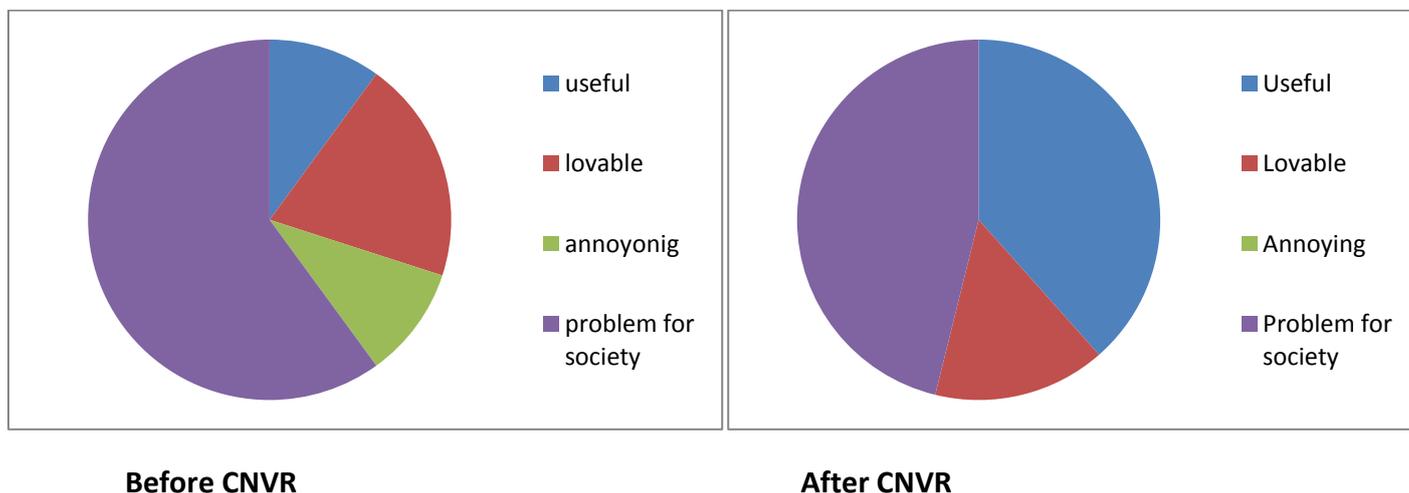
The survey was first conducted in early May, preceding the CNVR camp, which was organised in the period May 15-19. A total of fifteen randomly chosen community members were interviewed. The survey was repeated in December 2012, among fifteen randomly chosen members.

General comments:

- ✓ *The camp is an amazing initiative*
- ✓ *Animals have similar rights as human do*
- ✓ *Please also help donkeys that work in the brick factories.*
- ✓ *Love the stray animals like your children, not only during festivals.*
- ✓ *Animal welfare work is good for our community*
- ✓ *Stray dogs should be cared by government.*
- ✓ *Dogs are also similar like humans; they should be cared for everyone and they will help us in return*
- ✓ *Dogs are becoming more aggressive and should be controlled*
- ✓ *Dogs should not be killed but should be limited in number and create a healthy dog population and healthy society. W need dogs and they need us*

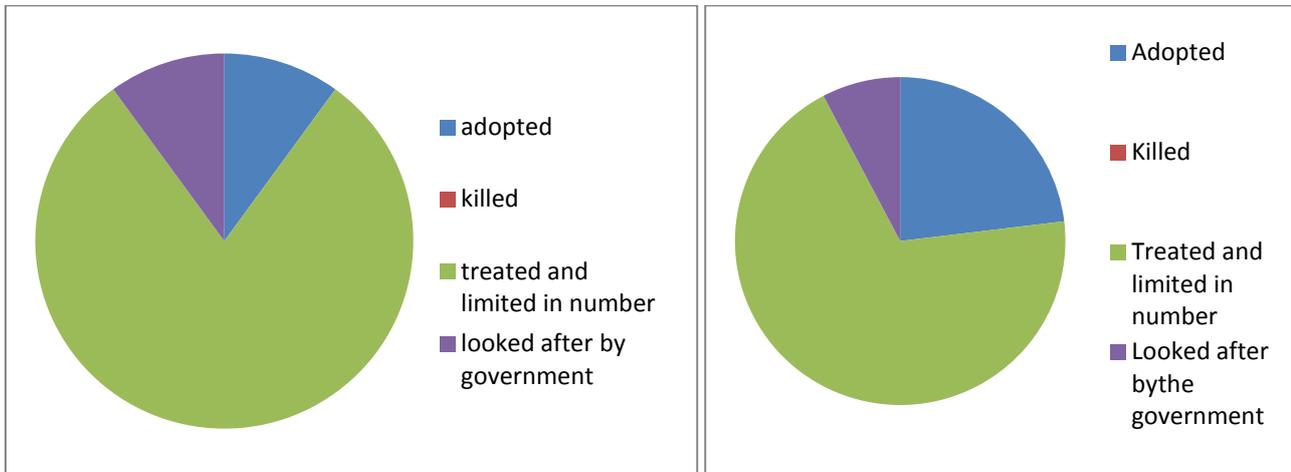
The findings

1. In your opinion stray dogs are:



Before CNVR 60% of interviewees consider stray dogs as problem of the society. Only 10% things dogs are useful. After welfare intervention the percentage considering dogs a 'problem' has down to 46% while the percentage of people considering dogs as 'useful' has gone up to 38%.

2. In your opinion they should be:

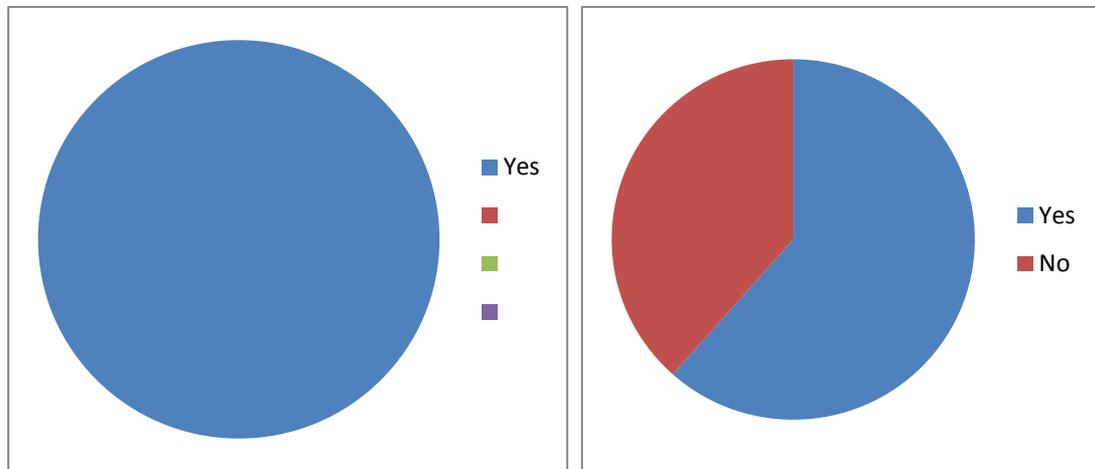


Before CNVR

After CNVR

Before CNVR 80% felt dogs should be treated. After CNVR most people are more aware of stray dogs, with 23% replying they should be adopted instead of keeping exotic breeds.

3. Are you facing any problems from street dogs?

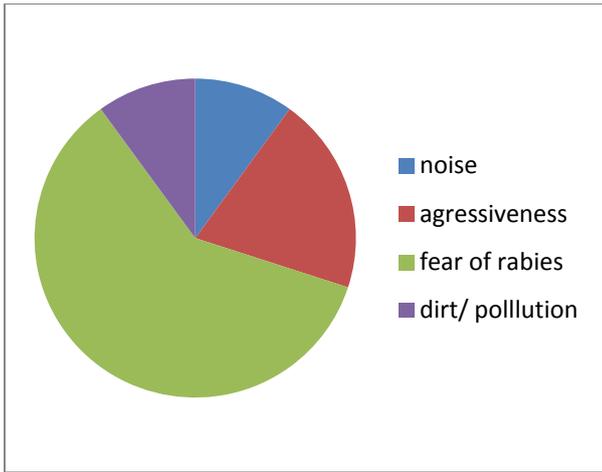


Before CNVR

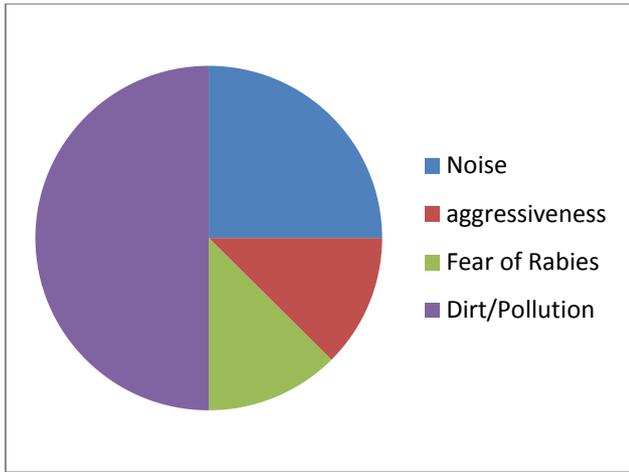
After CNVR

Before Animal Nepal conducted CNVR all interviewees said they faced problems from stray dogs. After CNVR the percentage has gone down to 62%.

If so, which problems?



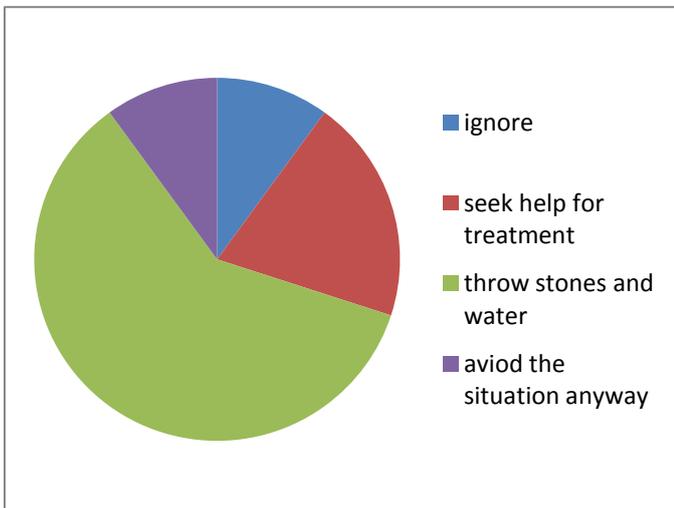
Before CNVR



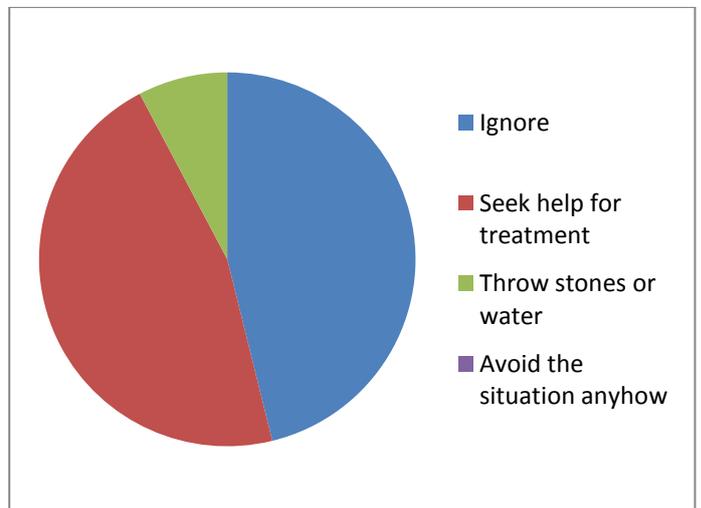
After CNVR

Before intervention people’s fear of rabies was the most prevalent problem faced from stray dogs (60%), followed by aggressiveness, noise and pollution. After our campaign only 13% still worries about rabies, while the rest comment that dogs have become much less aggressive. Dirt and pollution now is the main complaint.

4. If you are disturbed in excess by street dogs what do you tend to do about it?



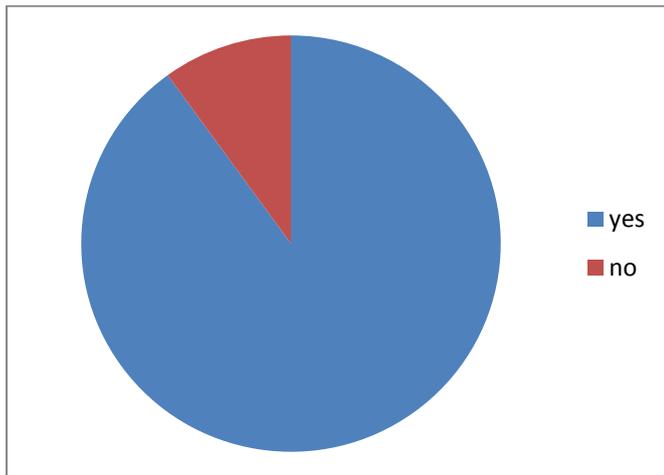
Before CNVR



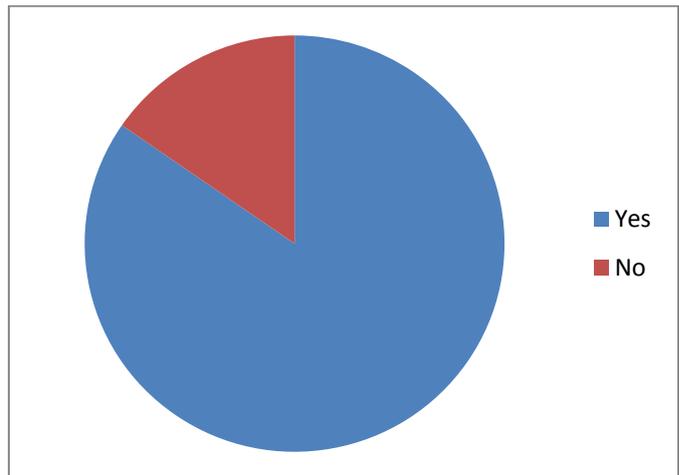
After CNVR

Before CNVR 60% of interviewees throws water or stones at dogs while only 10% ignores them. A few people told us they occasionally kill dogs or drop them in a faraway place. 20% occasionally seeks help for treatment. After CNVR the number of people attacking dogs goes down to only 8%, while the percentage of people seeking help for treatment increases to 46%.

5. Have you ever provided food to the street dogs?



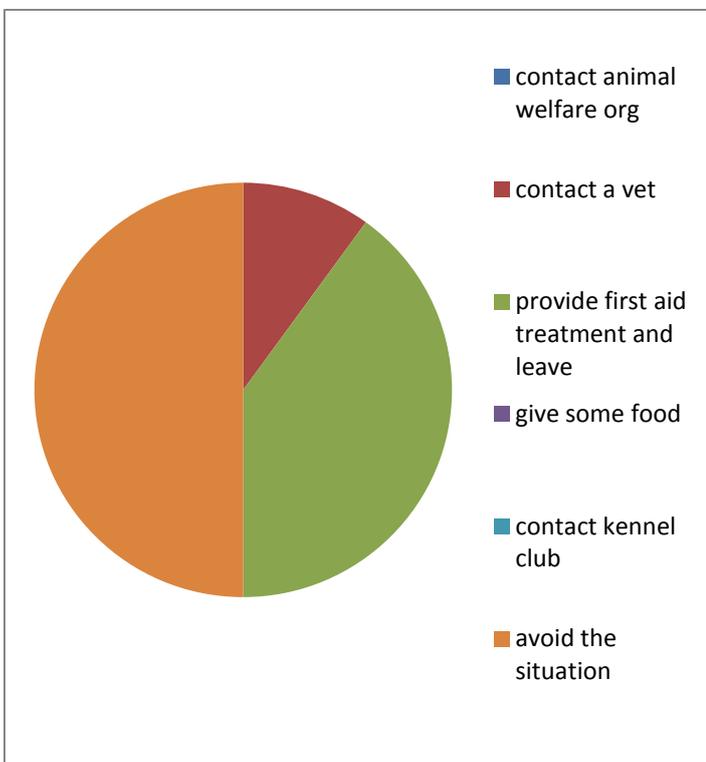
Before CNVR



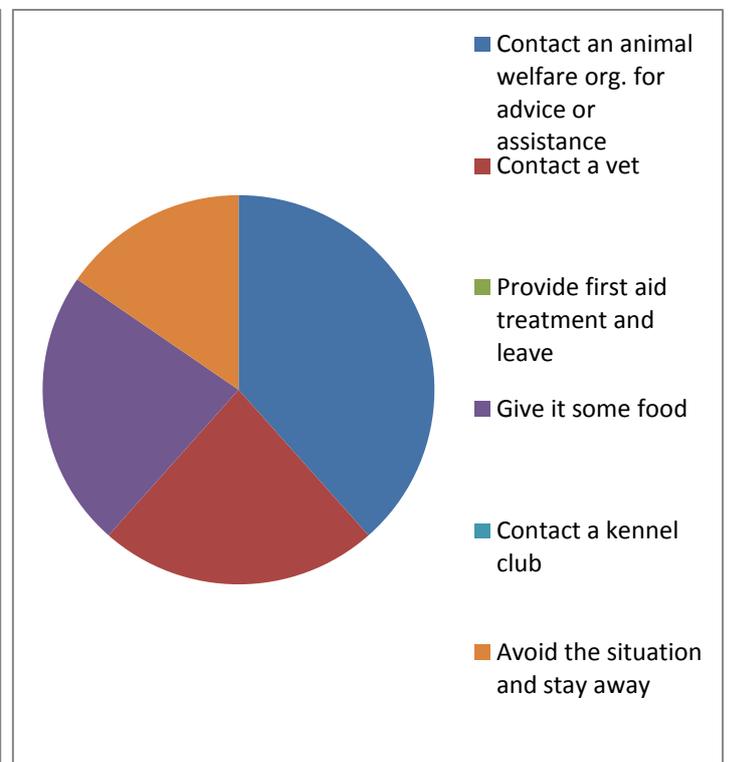
After CNVR

Even before CNVR most people explained they were feeding stray dogs. Harisiddhi is a Newar community with many festivals. Each festival involves many food items, of which the left overs are fed to the dogs. A few people feed dogs in their neighbourhood each day.

6. In case of any accident or sickness involving street dogs, what would you tend to do?



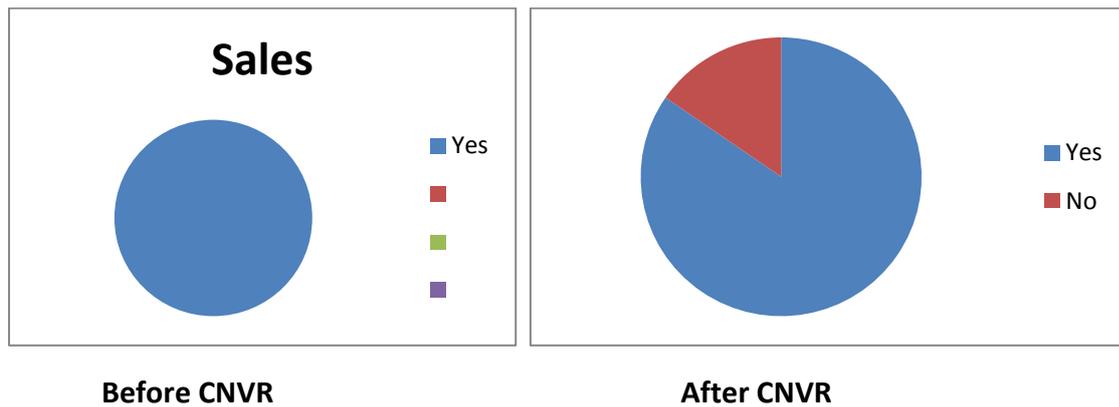
Before CNVR



After CNVR

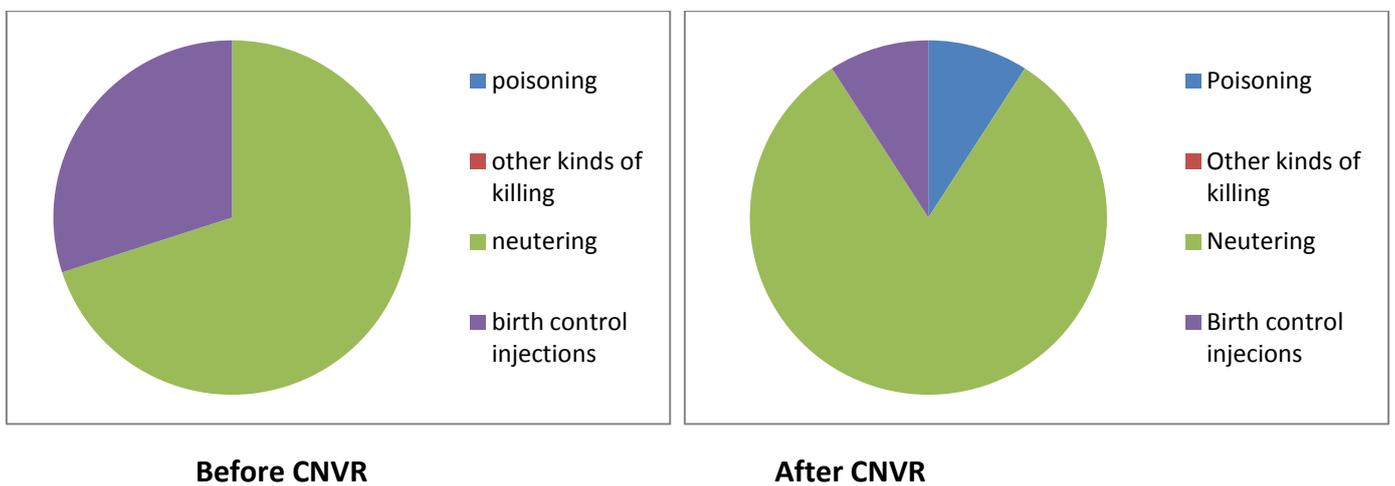
Before CNVR half of the respondents replied that they avoid accident or sickness of stray dogs, and some replied they provide first aid treatment. No one is aware of any organisation active in animal welfare organization. After CNVR there is a tendency to call a vet or paravet / kennel club. The percentage of interviewees avoiding the situation has decreased from 50% to 15%.

7. Do you think the street dog population should be controlled?



Before CNVR all respondents felt the number of street dogs should be reduced. After CNVR 15% of interviewees are happy with the present population.

If yes, how?



Before CNVR most respondents (70%) opt for neutering. 30% opts for birth control injections even though they do not know its side effects. After CNVR the percentage of interviewees opting for neutering increases to 82% while only 9% opts for injections. Another 9% opts for poisoning.

Questionnaire

Survey community members' perceptions of animal welfare

Name:

Age:

Profession:

Respondents can choose multiple answers.

In your opinion are stray dogs

useful lovable annoying problems for society

In your opinion they should be:

Adopted Killed Treated and limited in numbers looked after by the government

Are you facing any problems from street dogs?

Yes No

If yes what sort of:

Noise, Aggressiveness, Fear of rabies, Dirt/ Pollution, Other

4. If you are disturbed in excess by street dogs what do you tend to do about it?

Ignore,

Seek help for treatment

Throw stones or water,

Avoid the situation anyhow

Other

Have you ever provided food to the street dogs?

Yes No

In case of any accident or sickness involving a street dog, what would you tend to do?

Contact an animal welfare org. for advice or assistance,

Contact a vet,

Provide first aid treatment and leave,

Give it some food,

Contact a kennel club,

Avoid the situation and stay away,

Other

Do you think the street dog population should be controlled?

Yes, No

If yes, how?

Poisoning, Other kinds of killing, Neutering, Birth Control Injections Others

General comments: