



FEEDING STRAY DOGS
responsibly

PREFACE

The handbook on “Feeding Stray Dogs Responsibly” is a ground-up initiative from Animal Welfare Groups (AWGs), which is supported by Animal & Veterinary Service, a cluster of National Parks Board. It is hoped that through this handbook, there is greater awareness of responsible stray dogs feeding.

The act of feeding stray animals is probably well-intended i.e. to provide food for these animals that are left to find food and fend for themselves. However, uneaten food that is not cleared may attract rats leading to rat infestation. The feeding of stray dogs at spots near residential or high human traffic areas may lead to more opportunities for human and animals to come into contact with each other. Through responsible feeding, public health concerns and safety issues can be reduced significantly to bring forth a better environment for the peaceful coexistence of human and animals.

The regular feeding of animals also serves as a provision of constant food source. Over time, the stray population will increase if the animals are not sterilised. And stray animals generally lead a life of poor welfare on the streets. For this reason, AVS and AWGs will be working closely with the community to sterilise the stray animals which are being fed and cared for through an island wide sterilisation programmes (i.e. the Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage (TNRM) programme for stray dogs and the Stray Cats Sterilisation Programme (SCSP). These sterilisation efforts, coupled with rehoming, will help to manage the population growth and provide a better living environment for our animals. We urge all stray feeders to work with the AWGs to sterilise the stray animals.

For information and contact details of the AWGs involved in developing this Handbook, please refer to the back page of the Handbook.

*Note:

1. Due to the possible impact of the stray feeding of animals at ecologically or biologically sensitive areas, feeding of stray and wild animals is prohibited in nature reserves, nature parks and public parks under the Parks and Trees Act, unless permission has been obtained.
2. Feeding of pigeons is prohibited by law in Singapore under the Animals & Birds Act (Pigeon Rules).
3. Stray feeding if not done responsibly, can be a littering act, which is prohibited by law.

HOW TO BE A Responsible Stray Dog Feeder



We aim to educate stray dog feeders on adopting good feeding practices.

If you are a responsible feeder, please hand the handbook out to other feeders to spread the message about responsible feeding. You may also hand it out to members of the public to educate them about ‘Dos’ and ‘Don’ts’ when feeding stray dogs.



Stray feeding is not illegal except in Nature Reserves, Nature Parks and Public Parks, unless permission has been obtained.

What if feeders do not practice responsible stray feeding

Throwing or leaving food behind unattended, to feed stray dogs is an irresponsible act. It may attract flies and rodents that could transmit infectious diseases. Leaving stagnant water in containers without the intention of clearing may lead to mosquito breeding.

The above may lead to complaints from members of the public about disamenities, health and hygiene issues. Please clean up after feeding.



The feeding of strays in nature reserves, nature parks and public parks is prohibited.

Leaving food unattended may result in the feeding of wildlife, which is prohibited.

If you are confronted for any reason concerning the feeding, explain politely that you are a responsible feeder and that you will clear any remaining uneaten food by the strays. Do not get into any unnecessary confrontation. Strive to resolve the matter amicably first. Police's assistance should only be sought as a last resort.



Be mindful that irresponsible feeding practices (e.g. feeders who do not clean up after feeding or who feed at dangerous locations) may lead to complaints about the dogs, and create concerns among the community on public health and safety, which may lead to the removal of dogs.

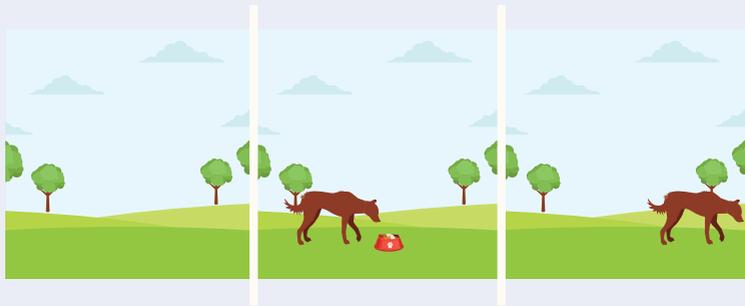


Feeders who do not comply with the law or specific park or nature reserve rules may be penalized for their actions.

Consider reporting to the authorities for enforcement action if irresponsible feeding habits persist and jeopardises the safety of the public.

Before reporting to the authorities, you may wish to consider the following steps:

- To prove that food was left by an irresponsible feeder with supporting evidence, such as photos or videos of the irresponsible feeding.



- If you are feeding in the same area, ensure that you have evidence that you are feeding responsibly, take photos or videos of the feeding area before, during and after feeding to show that you are a responsible feeder and cleaned up after feeding.

How to Feed

Supervise the dog(s) while feeding, and to clean up after the dog(s) has finished. However, there may be situations where supervision is not feasible e.g.

- The dog(s) are shy and are not willing to come near you;
- The dog(s) needs to pick up the packets of food for its family
- The dog(s) prefers minimal contact with humans



Any food remnant or receptacle including water bowls that are not cleared after feeding could result in serious public health consequences. Leftover food may lead to rodent infestation, and rainwater collected in water bowls may lead to mosquito breeding.



This is why it is important for feeders to track where the food has been relocated and clear any food remnants and receptacles. If there is any difficulty in doing so, feeders should seek alternative solutions or consult relevant authorities to ensure the feeding activity does not result in rodent infestation or mosquito breeding.

Water bowls should be emptied and removed after the dogs have eaten and left the feeding location. If water containers are left behind, the water should be changed on a daily basis to prevent mosquito breeding.

It is a good habit for feeders to mark water containers with his/her name and contact information. Otherwise, such containers will be regarded as litter and feeder may get into trouble for littering.



When and where to feed?

Feeders should try to minimise human-dog conflicts and avoid areas which may pose a danger to both humans and dogs. Hence, feeders are advised to:-

- Feed at regular times and at a regular location;
- Feed at a quiet spot away from human and vehicle traffic;
- Feed away from areas where dogs may start guarding their feeding ground e.g. pavements.



What to feed?



- Feeders should consider feeding :-
- The types of food that will not leave a mess; and
 - Food which is nutritionally balanced and healthy for dogs as poor quality meals may cause health problems for the dogs.

How else can you help?

Other than feeding in a responsible manner, you can also help the dogs in the following ways:-



1. Rehome

- Take the dogs off the streets and find it a suitable permanent home.
- Ensure that the rehomed dog is micro-chipped, licensed and sterilised.

2. Sterilise

It is important to sterilise stray dogs.

- Sterilising dogs prevents unwanted litters, which also means there will eventually be fewer stray dogs on the streets.
- Check if the dogs have been sterilised, and bring them for sterilisation if they are not sterilised.
- Remember to clip their ears so that any person assisting the dog will know he/she has already been sterilised.
- It is advisable to microchip the dogs to ensure traceability.



3. Injured or sick dogs

- If the dog is sick or injured, bring it to the vet for treatment.
- If the injury is minor or the sickness can be easily treated, give appropriate medication until the dog is well.



4. Trapping

- If you are unable to trap the dogs for sterilisation or for medical treatment, engage a humane trapper or work with an Animal Welfare Group (AWG) listed in this brochure who can assist you based on terms agreed upon upfront.





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