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Popular Article

The Importance of Pet Registration in India: A Step towards Responsible Pet Ownership

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Introduction

In India, the relationship between people and their pets is profoundly special. Numerous scientific studies have highlighted the positive effects of pet ownership on human well-being (Obradović et al., 2021) with the hormone oxytocin, known as the 'feel-good hormone,' playing a significant role (Marshall-Pescini et al., 2019). Spending time with pets, be it dogs or cats, increases the levels of oxytocin, boosting our happiness and overall well-being. However, the distress of losing a beloved pet due to them running away or being stolen is a heartbreaking experience that many pet owners fear.

To mitigate such distressing situations, it is crucial for pet owners to register their pets and have them microchipped. This registration and microchipping process significantly increases the chances of reuniting with a lost pet, providing peace of mind to pet owners.

Benefits of Pet Registration

Registering your pet offers various benefits:

- **Legal Protection:** In case of disputes or issues, having a registered pet provides legal protection to the owner.
- **Medical Emergencies:** Quick identification of a pet can be crucial during medical emergencies.
- **Guidance on Responsible Pet Ownership:** Registration processes often include guidelines and advice on responsible pet care, benefiting both the pet and the owner.

City-wise Implementation

Delhi and Mumbai are leading the way in ensuring responsible pet ownership (The Sunday guardian, 2019):

1. **Mumbai:** Pet dog owners are required to obtain a license to prevent diseases like rabies. Failure to have a license can result in the city impounding the pet. The license costs Rs 105, with an annual renewal fee of Rs 100. This measure is essential, given that Mumbai reported over 1,09,563 cases of dog bites in 2018.
2. **Delhi:** The law mandates the registration of all pet dogs. Failure to comply can lead to fines or legal consequences.

State Initiatives

1. **Punjab:** The Punjab Municipal (Registration and Proper Control of the Animal and Vision of Animal Attack) bylaws 2017 have been introduced to ensure pets behave well in society. These rules are communicated to all local authorities in Punjab (The Sunday guardian, 2019).
2. **Haryana:** In response to an increase in dog bite incidents, the Haryana government has made pet dog registration compulsory. Owners must obtain a license through the Saral Portal, and non-compliance may result in a fine of Rs 5,000, with the possibility of jail time being considered as a penalty (Chauhan 2022).
3. **Kerala:** The Kerala High Court has directed the state government to issue public notices, urging animal owners to register their pets and obtain a license (The Hindu, 2021).

Local Initiatives

1. **Surat:** With approximately 25,000 pets in 20,000 households, animal lovers in Surat are advocating for mandatory pet registration. In the absence of a Kennel Club in Surat, pet owners can opt for microchipping their pets for easy identification (The Hindu, 2021).
2. **Goa:** Goa witnesses a dog bite incident every 15 minutes, with around 40 dog bites daily in 2023. To address this issue, the Government of Goa initiated 'Mission Rabies' in partnership with the Corporation of the City of Panji and PAWS. This initiative aims to monitor the movement and population of stray dogs using microchip implants (Shrivastav 2023).
3. **Pune:** A few years ago, Pune Municipal Corporation made pet registration mandatory to address issues like overcrowding, pet abuse, and conflicts among society members over pets. The registration fee is Rs. 500, valid for 10 years, with a renewal fee of Rs. 50. Additionally, registration of cats has also been made mandatory (Kulkarni 2020).



4. **Ahmedabad:** Ahmedabad's new pet policy emphasizes pet registration, leash use in public, easy online registration with reminders, and park safety. This policy aims to promote responsible pet ownership and community well-being (Parmar 2024).

Conclusion

The importance of pet registration cannot be overstated. It not only ensures the safety and well-being of pets but also promotes responsible pet ownership and community safety. As more cities and states in India adopt and implement these registration policies, it is crucial for pet owners to comply with these regulations to ensure the harmonious coexistence of pets and humans in society.

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