

Want to help stray animals? Here's how you can make a real impact

Hidden among Dhaka's crowded streets are the stray animals seeking shelter, food, and most of all, a feeling of safety and affection. With the upcoming winter days, one can only imagine how much more vulnerable these poor creatures will be. Their one hope of making it through these tough times are at the hands of a human.

It also doesn't make it easier that stray animals are more prone to abuse and neglect, given how overlooked they are by society. This leaves most animal lovers wondering how we can play out part in making their lives easier. Whether you're a cat or dog person looking for ways to help out our furry friends in the winter cold, here are a few ways you can aid them and make a change!

Provide Them with Food and Water

The dry, cold temperatures will leave most stray animals dehydrated. Carrying a bottle of water with you to feed them as you go



Creating a trustworthy relationship with stray animals by feeding them with small snacks and food is also a great way to not just help them out, but to also brighten your mood. This can also serve as a great outdoor activity with family and friends!

Make sure, however, that the food you provide them with is safe for consumption for both cats and dogs. For example, chocolate, grapes, and walnuts are few foods which are extremely toxic for cats and dogs to consume. Never go about feeding them with such food, as it can be fatal.

Adopt Them

If it is within your capacity, and you are well equipped with the resources to care for a pet, the best way to support a stray animal is to adopt them! Many stray animals seek a comfortable shelter in the midst of the intense cold, and adoption can give them this wonderful opportunity.

If this option does not sound possible, you can always seek the internet to search

for any trustworthy individuals looking to care for a furry friend, or talk to anyone in your circle who may be interested. Many stray animals wander around our streets, so being able to take them in and care for them in a safe environment can not only improve their lives, but our community as a whole.

Make sure the stray animal you're choosing to adopt is safe and sound. You must take them to a vet to check for any serious injuries and/or diseases they may have accumulated in their time on the streets, and ensure they are vaccinated.

Raising a pet is a serious task, so if you make the decision to care for a stray animal, make sure you're prepared for the responsibilities that come with it. Your adopted pet will be eternally grateful for the compassion you show them by caring for them.

Take Action Against Abuse

Unfortunately, animal abuse is rampant

within the streets and is heavily overlooked as stray animals are often not given the same level of attention as regular pets. But this needs to change. Stray animals are worthy and deserving of our care and time, and one way we can show them grace and kindness is by protecting them from abuse.

If you come across a stray animal being targeted, make an effort to stop the attack and get the animal to safety. Report the attack to any local authorities, and ensure the community is aware of the incident.

The best way to spread the message is of course, through social media. The internet is the best place to get the word out, whether it is through a video or a short post detailing the incident. Many animal lovers and others alike will be notified of such incidents, and it is also a great learning tool for people seeking knowledge on animal care and stray animals in general.

By Adiba Islam

Photo: Collected

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