

## Abstract

Currently in Bangkok, there are approximately 400,000 stray dogs and this number is most likely to increase every year. Stray dogs could be those lost and abandoned by owners. The reproduction of such dogs also add number to stray dogs on the street. The abundant quantity of stray dog can cause troubles to urban community in many aspects. As for human health issue, a stray dog can be a perfect carrier for some contagious, infectious or fatal diseases, such as allergy, leptospirosis and rabies. Also, a significant amount of government budget has been allocated for stray dog management. Among others social and environmental issues, free roaming dogs produce tons of feces, sometimes attack people and create a nuisance by barking. Lastly, there has a controversy over stray dog management among local communities, NGOs, and local government.

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has realized how serious this problem is. A lot of effort has been taken to deal with the problem beginning with stray dog's seizure in long term shelter and dog destruction, and then move to stray dogs capture and release after neutering and rabies immunizing,.The problem has yet to be solved. Recently, legal measure has been used to put dog management in order. According to section 29 of the Public Health Act B.E. 2535, the by-law, The BMA Code on Control of Dog Care or Abandonment B.E. 2548, is issued in order to prohibit dog dumping and imposed dog owner's duty and responsibility including dog registration. However, these measures seem to be inadequate. The study shows that stray dog management by BMA in some areas adds more burdens to the authority. For example, BMA has to keep dogs in long term shelter with tax payers' money and may not be destroyed, if they were seized and not claimed by the owner. As well, stray dogs capture and release after neutering and rabies immunizing approach is against the prohibition of dog dumping by the Code. Thus, this research suggests some additional measures. First, "stray dog" should be legally and clearly defined. Second, the numbers of dogs allowed as pet for each person or household should be addressed. Third, domestic dog should be neutered to prevent an unwanted or unacceptable pet issue. Finally, BMA should consider bringing back humanely destruction to go along with other measures.