

Summary of Survey on Community View on Stray Dogs

The below is my own summary from the MBSJ Forum on Stray Dogs on 12 June 2023 without prejudice.

The survey on stray dog issues was conducted by MBSJ from Date 15 to 24 March 2023 focused on residents of Selangor. 841 residents responded. Most of the respondents were from Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ), followed by Petaling Jaya Municipal Council (MBPJ) and Shah Alam Municipal Council (MBSA) – ie city folks.

Of the 841 respondents, only 54% have pet dog/s (46% of respondent don't have pet dog/s).

And of those who won dogs, 85% of them purchased their dog instead of adopting. It appears that most prefers to purchase rather than adopt.

However, when asked for challenges face with stray dogs' issues, the 4th most recurring theme was a call to increase dog adoption. So, while majority of residents are pro-adoption, when it comes to themselves, it appears that they prefer purchasing. No wonder adoption rates are low.

Looking at Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage (TNRM), it involves three distinct but related parts.

The first part involves "trap and neuter". This is the part where an overwhelming 90% agreed on and call for the authorities to adopt TNRM in managing stray dogs in Selangor.

The second part involves "release" which mean to put the neutered dogs back to the same location they were originally caught. In order for this part to be successful, the community needs to be comfortable with stray dogs living in their community. Unfortunately, only slightly more than half of the respondents are comfortable with having stray dogs in their community. Thus, it appears that releasing caught and neutered stray dogs back into the same community may be a challenge. Some call for "R" to include "Rehome" and some suggested "Release" may not be to the original site but to somewhere suitable.

The third part of TNRM is "manage". Broadly this entails feeding the stray dogs daily, and caring for them including but not limited to providing medical help to them when necessary. In this, ONLY ABOUT HALF the respondents are willing to feed stray dogs. And of the 50% who are willing to feed stray dogs, ONLY 20% are able to feed them on a daily basis, and only about 30% are willing to provide medical care.

So, while 90% agree to TNRM, 50% are not comfortable with having stray dogs in their community, 50% are willing to feed them and of this 50%, only 20% able to feed them daily, and 30% able to provide medical care. This suggest TNRM may only be work in very few community – those that can accept strays, willing to feed them daily and provide medical care.

So, what are the challenges feeders face in managing stray dogs?

The number one problem they face is financial constraints – not enough money.

The second biggest problem they face is dealing with community members that don't like stray dogs.

The third biggest challenge is the feeder's lack of time to care for stray dogs.

I acknowledge that the surveys may have limitations such as: - (a) Sampling bias - the sample of respondents is not representative of the Selangor population of interest; (b) Measurement error - the survey questions may be unclear, ambiguous, resulting in respondents giving inaccurate or inconsistent answers; (c) Mode effect - the mode of administration of the online survey influences the responses of the respondents, either because of their preferences, accessibility, or comfort with the mode.

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