

Herald Cafe



SEARCHING FOR SHIRLY QUARACHIM ON 18TH JUNE ROAD



ROHIT BHANDIYE SET TO RELEASE NEW BOOK ON SPORTS

PROTECTING LIVES: One paw at a time

Every life is valuable and deserves protection. The recent ferocious dog attacks have raised serious concerns regarding both human and animal safety. Dog registrations, sterilisation efforts, and related initiatives are seen as the way forward

Elsa Angel Rose

The increasing number of dog attacks across Goa has sparked widespread concern about public safety and animal welfare. While dogs are often treasured companions, the rise in stray populations and a lack of responsible pet ownership have led to tragic consequences. Efforts such as registration, sterilisation, and better tracking of dogs are now viewed as essential steps towards



RECENT TRAGIC INCIDENTS

One harrowing incident involved the brutal death of a 15-month-old girl in Ponda, attacked by a pack of stray dogs after she briefly wandered outside her home while waiting for her mother to take her to Friday prayers. Another recent case involved a six-year-old Russian girl, who sustained injuries after being bitten by a stray dog while playing near the shoreline. Prompt intervention by nearby lifeguards ensured her rescue, preventing what could have been an even more serious situation. These deeply disturbing incidents highlight the urgent need for preventive action.

NEED FOR COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION

A multi-pronged approach involving public education, support from NGOs, and active participation from panchayats and municipalities is essential. Dr Charmaine explained, "A multi-faceted approach is needed. Educating the public, especially children. Identifying and managing community dogs, who can be vaccinated and sterilised, can continue to live in their territories, often peacefully if cared for."

According to Atul, ABC (Active Birth Control) is the solution. He also highlighted the importance of school workshops, saying, "The public can take a more active role in volunteering or reporting dogs for sterilisation."

COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES TO TACKLE THE ISSUE

In response to the growing number of dog bite cases and rising public concern, the state of Goa is rolling out several initiatives to manage the stray dog population and prevent further attacks. Plans include banning certain breeds, introducing mandatory dog registrations, increasing sterilisation

and vaccination drives, and conducting anti-rabies campaigns. Additionally, lifeguards are being trained to handle encounters with aggressive stray dogs on beaches. Discussions are also underway regarding the establishment of professionally managed shelters, with NGOs and animal welfare groups expected to play a key role.



STAY CALM AND KIND AROUND STRAY DOGS

- Don't stare directly
- Avoid aggressive body language
- Do not disturb while eating or sleeping
- Be mindful of their body language
- Report aggressive or injured dogs to authorities or NGOs

BENEFITS OF DOG REGISTRATIONS AND STERILISATIONS

Veterinarian Dr Charmaine Pinto outlines the many advantages of dog registrations and sterilisations. "The dog registration and sterilisation initiative is a highly valuable step in the right direction. It will help control the dog population, reduce the number of territorial and mating-related aggressive behaviours, and help identify unvaccinated or even neglected dogs. These measures will also help in preventing rabies outbreaks."

However, she stresses that the success of such programmes depends heavily on consistent implementation, public cooperation, and sufficient funding. Pet owner Ritu Varma added, "Registration encourages owners to be more accountable for their pets. It can help in reuniting lost pets with their owners as well."

SPECIAL CARE FOR THE STRAY ONES

Just like pets, stray dogs deserve love and care. Adopting stray dogs is a compassionate way to offer them the attention they need. Dr Charmaine noted, "Adoption of stray dogs is an ideal way to get street dogs off the roads and get the love and attention they need. Use of microchipping or ear marking post-sterilisation



helps prevent repeated surgeries and track population control progress, too. And of course, a state-supported Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme with mobile vans and dedicated teams will ensure wider reach."

For any of these efforts to succeed, public awareness and cooperation are crucial — indeed, they are among the most vital components for the successful execution of any initiative.

SHOULD THIS BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT GOA?

As dog attacks are not confined to one specific area in Goa, it is logical to implement these initiatives across the state. Dr Charmaine agrees, saying, "I think implementing this initiative statewide is essential and a good idea. While stray dog overpopulation and their related issues are not confined to one particular area, a uniform policy across Goa ensures consistency in managing stray and pet populations and enhances public health safety as well."

At this point, it's not just about registrations — active birth control is also crucial. Animal welfare NGO founder Atul Sarin stated, "Registrations can be useful, but resources must be concentrated on providing active birth control as well."

MMC'S NEW DOG TAX

The Mapusa Municipal Council has announced a new dog tax policy, requiring all dog owners to register their pets with local authorities. Under this initiative, owners must pay a one-time registration fee of Rs 500 per dog, along with an annual renewal charge of Rs 100. Upon registration, each dog will receive a unique identification tag, which must be worn at all times. This tag will assist in identifying registered pets and aid in the efficient tracking of lost or stray dogs, while also promoting responsible pet ownership and better monitoring of domestic animals. The council intends to implement the registration process in phases and will release official guidelines soon.



AUBREY PLAZA makes her first red carpet appearance since the passing of husband Jeff Baena, attending the screening of her new movie 'Honey Don't' at Cannes Film Festival

Unity through unexpected bonds

Tiatr: 'Mhoji Maim, Mhoji Sasumaim'

Cast: Pradeep Naik, Aaron Colaco, Dola, Tracy de Calangute, Benny de Aldona, Tony de Ribandar, Franky, Flavia, Risma

Writer/Director: Comedian Agostinho, comedian Joyel

Band: Queter (trumpet), Felina (saxophone), Mikeias (keyboard), Casmiro (bass), Eldrich (drums)

Stage/Lights: Anthony de Ambaji, Ratna

Pio Esteves

Facebook friends, Joy (Aaron Colaco), a Catholic boy, finally falls in love with a Hindu girl, Sheetal (Tracy de Calangute), settled in Mumbai.

Joy's family life has been turbulent as his parents could no longer get along with each other and his father, who turned into an alcoholic, passed away. His mother, Ivy



(Dola) then moves to Mumbai.

Ivy meets Sanjay Naik (Pradeep Naik), a businessman by profession, and she agrees to take care of his children Ravi (Tony de Ribandar) and and, unknowingly, Sheetal as a caretaker.

When the relationship between Joy and Sheetal comes to light, Sheetal

receives strong support from her father, who does not believe in caste or religion. However, Ivy initially opposes the match.

Back in Goa, Joy wins over his uncle Charles, who lends his full support. Plans for a civil marriage in Goa are set, and Joy travels to Mumbai to finalise the wedding date.



Now, what transpires with different encounters is worth the watch during the second half of the drama. Who is Joy's real father? Who are Sheetal's true parents? Can such a relationship continue in the future? What unfolds after marriage?

Tiatr 'Mhoji Maim Mhoji Sasumaim'

written by comedian Agostinho and directed by comedian Joyel carries a fine script and sleek direction. The entire plot dwells upon inter-religious marriage and the proceedings thereafter. There's a beautiful twist brought about in the concluding scene and finally the cat is out of the bag. Till then, a good dose of suspense continues throughout the show.

Tiatr Review

'MHOJI MAIM, MHOJI SASUMAIM'

Going by the title of the tiatr, many viewers may be under the impression that it could be a common tale of mother, daughter and mother-in-law. But it is not so. Watch it to understand the thoughts of the writer.

As usual, Pradeep stands tall as the father and he is ably supported by Dola.

Benny de Aldona and Tony de Ribandar extend good support to the main cast. Aaron and Tracy de Calangute are projected as lovebirds and they perform well.

In the comic acts, there's Lorus (comedian Joyel), Filsu (Flavia) and TikTok (Risma) who form a comical trio on stage and they entertain throughout with clean comedy.

For some renditions, there's Aaron who steps on stage for the opening song, followed by solos from Benny de Aldona on 'RIP', Daniel, Tracy de Calangute and Tony de Ribandar. There's one song by Dola and Tracy de Calangute. One comedy solo by Risma and a trio by Tony de Ribandar, Benny de Aldona and comedian Joyel receive encores from the audience. Live band offstage led by Queter and team have extended good support to all the singers.

The stage sets are by Anthony de Ambaji and the lighting effects are handled by Ratna.