

Press Release from The Guardians- Sikkim

Citizen's Animal Shelter

“Sikkim chose coexistence, and the nation can learn.”

Rabies Control in India: Sikkim vs Conventional Approaches

Across many parts of India, rabies control is still addressed through outdated and inhumane methods such as mass removal, relocation, or killing of street dogs. Despite these measures, rabies-related human deaths continue, dog populations rebound rapidly, and public fear remains high. These approaches ignore scientific evidence and fail to address the root cause of the problem.

Sikkim, however, has chosen a different path.

Under the SARA (Sikkim Anti-Rabies & Animal Health) programme, the Government of Sikkim implemented a state-wide, science-based, and compassionate strategy focused on:

Mass anti-rabies vaccination

Animal Birth Control (ABC) sterilisation

24x7 veterinary support

Community participation and awareness

Collaboration with NGOs and animal caregivers

The result:

- Zero human rabies deaths

- Almost every street dog vaccinated

- Stabilised dog population

- Improved public safety and animal welfare

While many regions continue to treat street dogs as a “problem to be removed,” Sikkim treats them as part of the solution—recognising that vaccinated, sterilised dogs create a natural barrier against rabies transmission.

Sikkim’s success proves a critical truth:

Cruelty fails. Science works. Compassion sustains.

As India strives toward rabies elimination, Sikkim stands as a living blueprint, showing that humane governance saves lives—both human and animal.