

GUIDELINES TO FEEDING STRAYS USING THE FIVE FREEDOMS FOR ANIMALS

STRAY ANIMALS

Stray animals in Egypt face problems from all sides: people who do not want them around and would therefore poison them; harsh stray animal control methods that leave them for dead; children who regard them as mere play things, that they can tie up, drown, kick around.

It is therefore a breath of fresh air when we see, or hear, of someone being kind to an animal in otherwise dire circumstances. Compassion, empathy and generosity are beautiful characteristics.

RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL WELFARE

At S.P.A.R.E., we believe in responsible animal welfare: our cause aims to benefit the animals, the animals within the community, and the community itself.

At face value, feeding stray animals is a kind and generous act, full of compassion, love and respect for those animals in need.

At a deeper level, if not done properly, feeding strays could place the animals in danger: people who don't want them there might torture them or kill them. In fact, it makes them more readily available for a shooting or poisoning spree, since they congregate in one place, and become used to being fed by humans.

Also, if the animals are not sterilized, but are receiving regular feedings, they become stronger, have more children, the stray animal population goes up, and there are more animals available for cruelty! The cycle is never ending.

Therefore, feeding must be done responsibly and with a progressive outlook regarding the bigger picture for your community, of stray animals in Egypt as a whole, and especially of controlling the stray animal population.

If you do feed stray animals in your area, or know of someone who does, please follow these guidelines.

BEFORE FEEDING THE ANIMALS

1. Try to find your strays a home. Many people are willing to help.
2. Keep in touch with us. If places at the shelter free up, we will try to shelter the animals. However, please understand that priority goes to very abused and sick animals.



FACTS & FIGURES

Cats

Average number of litters a fertile cat can produce in one year: 3

Average number of kittens in a feline litter: 4-6

In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats

Dogs

Average number of litters a fertile dog can produce in one year: 2

Average number of puppies in a canine litter: 6-10

In six years, one female dog and her offspring can theoretically produce 67,000 dogs



IMPORTANT

1. Sterilize the animals.
2. Seclusion: Feed the animals away from people who might not want them around and therefore could or would harm them. Feed the animals in a secluded area - an alley, a street corner, a hidden back corner of your building garden. Make sure that they are far away from restaurants, schools, shops, cars, main streets etc. Anywhere that is away from people who might be bothered is safer for the animals: so people can be people, and animals can be animals!

REMEMBER

1. You cannot force people to accept something they don't believe in. Respect your community and they will respect you: if one person complains it is their right to do so. The street belongs to everyone.
2. The animals you're feeding will become used to being fed by humans. This makes it easier for someone who doesn't want them around to lure them in by putting poison in their food.

1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST: BY READY ACCESS TO FRESH WATER AND A DIET TO MAINTAIN FULL HEALTH AND VIGOUR.

Healthy Food: For example dogs shouldn't eat chocolate or sweets

Consistency: Feeding animals for 2 weeks and then stopping might cause them to go searching for food in inappropriate places, and thus put them in danger if they become a nuisance to others.

2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT: BY PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING SHELTER AND A COMFORTABLE RESTING AREA.

Seclusion

Community: Your community should agree to your feeding strays so they don't hurt them

Cleanliness: pick up all the plates, newspapers etc that you use.

3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE: BY PREVENTION OR RAPID DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

Seclusion

TNR: Contact us to trap, neuter and release the animals back to where they live. We will perform this for a fee. Vaccinated and sterilized animals are healthier, and make for a safer, cleaner community for you and your neighbours.

Once we sterilize and vaccinate, we can provide you with documents to prove this. The sterilized animals are also tagged as further proof.

N.B. Sterilized animals also convert food to body mass more readily, and are therefore bigger and stronger, are more able to defend their territory, and will therefore stop other strays from coming into their immediate (and your) immediate area. The age of the stray population is that your animals are vaccinated once a year and are healthy.

Annual Check up: You must then ensure at all times that your animals are vaccinated once a year and are healthy.

4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR - BY PROVIDING SUFFICIENT SPACE, PROPER FACILITIES AND COMPANY OF THE ANIMAL'S OWN KIND.

Seclusion. So they can be animals and humans can be humans.

5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS - BY ENSURING CONDITIONS AND TREATMENT WHICH AVOID MENTAL SUFFERING.

Seclusion

Community: Make sure that nobody in your community feels threatened by these animals in any way. Be honest and sincere. Explain that the animals will be - or already are (as the case may be) - sterilized and vaccinated.

Safety: You must ensure that nobody will do anything to harm these animals, and you must therefore make sure that the people in your neighbourhood are not bothered so as not to hurt them.

Feeding strays is like owning a pet: they are your full responsibility.

