

THE HINDU

Monday, February 8th, 2010

Finding these young ones caring homes

Puppies snapped up at adoption programme



ADOPTION PROGRAMME: One of the participants along with two pups that she adopted, at the camp at Cubbon Park in Bangalore on Sunday. - PHOTO: V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Staff Reporter

BANGALORE: Fifteen tiny, furry puppies lay huddled in a corner, shivering in the cold. They were eager to be cuddled, petted and eventually adopted. These puppies were part of the project - *Stray Pals* - an initiative to get people to adopt street dogs.

The puppy adoption programme organised here on Sunday as part of a project on Street Animal Management and Welfare by The Golden Husk, under the banner of the National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN) and the Wadhvani Foundation and the Jain University's Community Radio - Radio Active 90.4 MHz.

Savitha Tauro, a young professional, adopted two puppies. "These dogs are strong and resilient. I am glad to be giving them a life. I plan to take them to my farm," she said.

B.C. Ramakrishna, president of Karuna, an animal welfare orga-

nisation, inaugurated the programme and said that street dogs should ideally be called community dogs. "Since the dogs have no one to take care of them and are fed scrap by people, the right nomenclature for them would be 'community dogs' instead of street dogs," he said.

He also said that according to a survey conducted by Karuna two years ago, there were around 2.20 lakh street dogs in the city, including the newly added areas. "However, due to the Animal Birth Control programme being implemented jointly by the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike and animal welfare organisations, the population of street dogs has remained more or less stable. Also, the incidence of rabies has drastically come down."

Dr. Ramakrishna urged the student community to adopt these community dogs. The animal welfare movement is currently headed by senior citizens. "We need

young blood in the movement. The youth should involve themselves more," he added.

The main objective of the project is to create awareness and mass education among the people about street dog management and welfare, involve communities in adopting street dogs or community dogs, have mass sterilisation and vaccination drives, treat dogs that are malnourished, injured and afflicted with diseases. All the pups available for adoption have been vaccinated and cleaned.

All the 15 pups found new homes at the end of the day. Pet Zones and Pet Needs offered nutritional food supplement to the adopters. Rahul Poral and his band performed live, while young children participated in the street art competition and wrote stories about their pets.

For further details or to adopt puppies, send an email to stray-pals@gmail.com or call 9945686274, 22355490.