

The street dogs of Istanbul

There are no anti-rabies drives nor are they shot or poisoned. They are treated with dignity and kindness. Free-roaming dogs are picked up off the streets and taken to local shelters where they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated for rabies and other diseases, treated for minor illnesses, ear-tagged for identification, and then released back to the neighborhood where they were trapped.

Planted as a chip on the ear, essentially each street dog carries a water proof CNIC at all times. The 'chip' has the dog's complete history i.e. date of birth, last inoculated and treatment given. The state does not stop here. There are designated places for food where the 'little friends' can receive free food without any bureaucratic hurdles or signing for receipts.

The state in Pakistan could learn much from a country that is constantly mentioned as one of its dearest friends. Starting from its homeless, beggars on the streets and thousands of underage street kids, it could begin to provide healthcare, shelter, food and also learn the impossible task of keeping digital

July 2018 Istanbul