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Feeders irked as Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation catches 6 sterilized dogs citing 'dog bites'

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NAVI MUMBAI: The animal feeders of Seawoods Estate Phase-1 (NRI Complex) are highly perturbed by the latest action of the NMMC to catch six sterilized dogs from within the over 55 acre complex on Tuesday on the ground of 'dog bites' suffered by some other local residents. Deputy municipal commissioner (licensing and in-charge veterinary services) Dr Shriram Pawar, who resides within the NRI Complex, had issued the formal order to catch the stray dogs as there was an "atmosphere of fear" in the complex due to the alleged dog bites.

However, the animal lovers have raised a few points to call the civic body action as illegal and erratic as non-aggressive, healthy dogs were picked up by the NMMC, and that no medical

certifications were provided with regards to the alleged dog bites.

"Firstly, there is currently no NMMC animal monitoring committee in place to actually verify the claims of dog bites. Anyone can buy anti-rabies shots from the market and produce these bills to say that "dog bites" occurred. Secondly, DMC Dr Pawar is a resident of NRI Complex, so he becomes an interested party, and hence should not

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Can private entity be ordered to arrange for stray dogs' care?

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MUMBAI: The Bombay high court on Monday sought assistance from senior advocate Zal Andhyarujina to know whether a private entity like Seawoods Estates Ltd (SEL), a residential complex in Navi Mumbai, can be compelled to make arrangement where its residents may feed and care for stray dogs? The HC also allowed Welfare of Stray Dogs (WSD) and its chief Abodh Aras to visit and inspect SEL premises to assist on technical aspects of the legal battle.

In 2021, six women residents of SEL who fed and cared for stray dogs sought judicial intervention after being served with notices for recovery of "lakhs and lakhs of rupees for feeding of stray dogs" in the complex. They sought orders to the Navi Mumbai Municipal

Corporation (NNMC) and Cidco to identify seven feeding stations for 38 dogs in the 50-acre space of the residential complex and for a "proactive approach" from state to implement animal protection laws.

Two women petitioners, in an interim application, said their basic facilities, including right to engage domestic staff, were withheld over non-payment of dues amounting to over Rs 51 lakh and Rs 9 lakh, respectively, towards maintenance and repairs. They said Rs 51.37 lakh was towards 'feeding and littering charges' for one and Rs 9.5 lakh for the other.

"In a writ petition, it is entirely impermissible for these two applicants to seek an adjudication about the