

Hindustan

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Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

HC: Those who feed strays must ensure others' safety

K A Y Dodhiya

abbas.dodhiya@live.com

MUMBAI: The Bombay high court on Wednesday accepted the suggestion of the amicus curiae that it is the responsibility of those feeding stray dogs to ensure that people are not threatened by the animals and directed the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) to hand over the designated spots to the petitioners.

A division bench of justice Gautam Patel and justice Neela Gokhale also told the petitioners that the civic body would not be responsible for maintaining such spots, and the former would have to bear their operation cost.

Two women, both residents of Seawood Estates Limited (SEL), have moved the court challenging a recovery notice issued to them by the society for littering the building compound while feeding around 38 stray dogs.

Advocate Siddh Vidya, appearing for the petitioners,



HC directs NMMC to hand over designated spots to petitioners

said that her clients were aggrieved by SEL's decision to restrict them from utilising basic facilities till an amount of around ₹60 lakh was paid by them.

In the previous hearing, the bench had taken the suggestions of SEL's advocates Abha Singh and Aditya Pratap that a separate spot outside the premises should be earmarked for feeding the strays and had asked the counsel for NMMC whether it was possible.

On Wednesday, the advocate

for NMMC said it had identified two spots outside the housing society which the petitioners could use. He, however, said that the civic authority would not be responsible for operating or maintaining the spots and the petitioners would have to do that.

The court accepted the proposal and permitted the petitioners to form an NGO to maintain the spots and asked them to ensure that there was no threat to the people from the strays.

Senior advocate Zai Andhwarajina, who was asked to assist the court in the matter, informed the bench that as the topic of strays and feeding them had become a specialised subject it was necessary to ensure that the procedure was followed.

After hearing the submissions, the court directed NMMC to hand over the designated spots to the petitioners outside SEL and posted the hearing of the pleas for compliance on March 20.

THE TIMES



OMIC TIMES OR

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MAHARASHTRA TIMES

'Need workable solution on strays, verify 3 feeding sites'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Wednesday said that a mutually workable solution on feeding spots for stray dogs was the need of the hour for the dispute between Sea-woods Estate Limited (SEL) and its residents, and asked Abodh Aras of the NGO Welfare of Stray Dogs to visit and verify three suggested sites.

The high court bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale also said that financial implications were to be borne by the dog feeders who had no rights to insist on feeding dogs within the complex and having SEL pay for it. The feeders cannot insist on SEL to allocate funds for feeding, which would be the responsibility of the feeders themselves, said the high court.

The Cideco said SEL had proposed three feeding sites outside their premises. The HC said one spot was too close to a service road and may be avoided, one is close to a school hence unacceptable and it may be workable if a two acre plot given to SEL on caretaker basis as green zone can be used to set up the stray feeding area.

Advocate Abha Singh for dog bite victims said that SEL was ready to get a few dogs adopted by shelter homes. Advocate Siddh Vidya for feeders said adoption must follow guidelines involving feeders too.