

EMBU COUNTY GOVERNMENT



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER - HEALTH

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Date; 13th June, 2024

MEDIA BRIEF: COMMUNITY ALERT ON STRAY DOGS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: COMMUNITY MEMBERS / DOGS OWNERS

RE: INCREASED PRESENCE OF STRAY DOGS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Department of Health wishes to inform all residents of Embu County of an increasing number of stray dogs reported in various places including towns and trading centers. An example, today 13th June 2024, I received an alert on an incidence where a pupil going to school was attacked and injured by stray dogs at Dallas estate in Embu Town. While most of these dogs are non –aggressive, their presence poses potential risks to Public Safety and Health.

Key Points:

1. **Public safety:** stray dogs may become defensive or aggressive, especially if approached. Residents, particularly children, should avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs.
2. **Health risks:** stray dogs can carry diseases such as rabies, ticks, and fleas. It is crucial to avoid physical contacts and seek medical attention if bitten or scratched.
3. **Community action:** residents are encouraged to support by keeping their dogs caged and take them for vaccination. Residents to participate in community initiatives aimed at addressing the stray dogs' issues like restraining them and keeping garbage and food remains in sealed wastes receptacles to avoid attracting stray animals.
4. **Timely reporting:** promptly report sightings to Department of Health- Public Health for safe and humane handling of the situation. Provide detailed information on dogs' location and behavior.

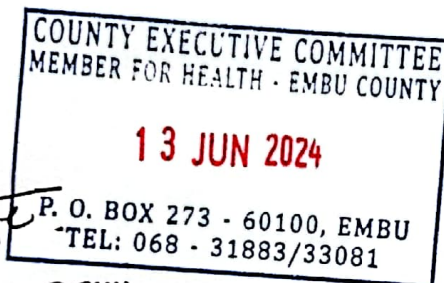
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Today I have reached out to the County Commissioner over the same issue since its becoming a security threat to the residents. We are in agreement that something has to be done to save our communities from attacks by the stray dogs. I have also reached out to the Kenya Society for the Protection & Care of Animals, an organization advancing the welfare of animal rights and requested them to help us in handling this matter since they are the one who went to court to stop the poisoning and baiting of stray dogs.

The safety and well- being of our communities remain our top priority. I'm cognizance of existing animal rights (Cap 360 Section 3 of the Prevention of cruelty to Animals that is barring the killing, baiting or poisoning of dogs). I'm looking forward to a joint solutions between the parties involved in this matter to eradicate this menace.

End of brief

Issued by:



Jamal A. Runyenye, *OGW*
County Executive Committee Member for Health
Embu County Government