

(From L to R) Shruti, Neha and Tanya are also planning to start a refuge for rescued stray dogs



Three young ladies come together to start RESQ Charitable Trust exclusively for stray dogs

POOCH PROTECTION

NEHA MADAAN

IT was one stray that brought Neha Pan-chamiya and Tanya Kane together in the fight against the system where stray dogs invite just one emotion: disdain. When, inspite of frantic efforts, no NGO or vet came forth to save a moribund stray, Neha, a nutritionist and Tanya, a dog trainer, resolved to be the liberators of a million such dogs. And when Shruti Srinath, an ENT and dog trainer, joined them, what emerged was a 24-hour rescue, support and animal emergency service called the RESQ Charitable Trust.

Tanya explains how the rescue operations are executed, "As soon as we are notified of an injured

dog, the person nearest to the site goes there and gauges the situation. Then the vets are contacted who come to the rescue site if the dog is immobile." After the treatment, however, the dog is left where it was found. "Having no shelter to house the rescued dog is our major incapacitation. We need funds to create a shelter. The refuge will come up soon because we are working towards that direction, as well," says Shruti.

The trio began their endeavour in March. Sensing the seriousness of their aim, vets and NGOs too started pooling in their own efforts. The Paws Pack and Home-a-Pup are the other two services that the three have avidly commenced. The for-

mer is a pet management company that facilitates pet ownership, pre-pet ownership counseling, dog training, nutrition management of the pets, veterinary consulta- tion for pets' medical check-ups, grooming and dog walking. Not to forget the emergency on call services coupled with pet transportation and a monthly newsletter.

The real hot babes

RESQ recently initiated the Home-a-Pup service in E-square, which involves removing puppies from dog shelters and encouraging people to adopt them. But it is not that simple a process to get one into your house. You would have to go through an extensive interview that will make sure that the pup's in good hands after the adoption. It does not end here for the girls may give you a surprise visit just to make sure that the pup is happy and well attended to.

India's stray dog population is huge. Most believe that terminating strays can mitigate the menace, but few realise that the so-called problem is a product of human folly. "Callous pet owners leave their pets who mate and procreate incessantly, leading to more unattended pups that grow up to be strays," laments Neha. "Moreover, termination of strays in one locality creates a void that is filled up by dogs that migrate from other areas to that locality. Therefore, sterilisation and adoption are most effective in reducing the stray dog population," adds Shruti.

Negative reactions do come their way but they remain undaunted. "Why don't you dog-lovers keep all the strays in your own homes?" somebody asked them. "Dog-lovers merely try to minimise the inconvenience caused to both, the dogs and the people by sterilising strays and inducing their adoption. This is like asking people who love children to keep the entire population of street children in their own homes!" comes a pat reply.