

Moves to Tackle Stray Dog Crisis

Fines, adoption drives and awareness campaigns on the agenda as northern officials coordinate multi-agency response

● **BD300 fine for feeding strays or leaving food waste in public places**

● **Adoption programme launching in September**

● **Remains rabies-free despite rising stray dog numbers**

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Bahrain's Northern Municipality is stepping up efforts to address the growing problem of stray dogs in residential areas and heritage sites. Plans for fines, public awareness campaigns and a new adoption programme are expected to launch as early as September.

The issue was discussed at a coordination meeting held at the Northern Municipality building, attended by municipal member Abdulla Mubarak Al Qobaisi alongside representatives from the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, the Agriculture Affairs agency, the Bahrain Cats and Pets Society and members of the Press.



Fine for Feeding

Officials highlighted that random public feeding is a key driver behind dogs repeatedly returning to the same neighbourhoods. Under existing public cleanliness rules, individuals who feed stray dogs or leave food waste in public spaces could face fines of up to BD300.

However, authorities stressed that awareness must come before enforcement, calling for a community programme to educate residents on the risks of unregulated feeding and proper ways to handle stray animals. Mr Al Qobaisi urged the media to support the effort through

short public awareness videos, noting that public influence can be more powerful than legislation in changing behaviour.

Adoption Drive

A significant shift in policy is also on the horizon. While previous arrangements involved catching, sterilising and relocating dogs to industrial areas or shelters, the upcoming contract—expected to be awarded in September—will open adoption pathways both within Bahrain and internationally.

Officials also proposed designating licensed feeding zones coordinated with animal wel-

fare groups, using dry food only to minimise littering.

Heritage Sites at Risk

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities flagged concerns over stray dogs entering archaeological sites including areas around Saar and Hamad Town, where gaps in fencing allow animals access. Officials confirmed Bahrain remains rabies-free, with strict import controls in place for pets.

Attendees agreed the crisis requires a unified response linking enforcement, welfare and heritage protection under a clearer coordination framework.

Ministry Backs Growth of Bahrain's Veterinary Sector

Hospital's services align with international veterinary best practices.



Eng. Asim Abdullatif Abdullah with the staff during hospital visit

Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting investment in the veterinary sector, highlighting the importance of public-private partnerships in advancing animal healthcare and protecting the Kingdom's animal wealth.

The message came during a visit by Eng. Asim Abdullatif Abdullah, Undersecretary for Agriculture and Animal Wealth Affairs, to Bari Veterinary Hospital, where he was accompanied by ministry officials and welcomed by Dr. Bari Hamed and co-founder Anood Khalid Al Sharif.

During the visit, the undersecretary praised the hospital as an example of the private sector's growing contribution to veterinary medicine, noting that such investments help enhance public health, improve veterinary services, and create opportunities to train and develop Bahraini professionals. He stressed that

Bari Veterinary Hospital handles an average of 40 animal cases each day, making it one of Bahrain's leading specialised veterinary healthcare centres.

collaboration between the public and private sectors remains essential to achieving Bahrain's sustainable development goals.

Eng. Asim also commended the hospital's commitment to delivering veterinary care in accordance with international best practices, saying its specialised services play an important role in promoting animal welfare while supporting wider public health efforts.

The delegation toured the hospital's specialised clinics, examination rooms, surgical theatres and intensive care unit, and reviewed its advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies. Officials were also briefed on the hospital's operations, which are led by Bahraini professionals alongside a team of veterinarians.

Smart Camera Network Expands

Intelligent surveillance system targets phone use, seatbelt violations, and reckless lane changes

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Hasan Barakat

Bahrain is stepping up road safety enforcement with an expanded network of smart cameras capable of automatically detecting a wide range of traffic offences, a senior official announced at the Bahrain Smart Cities Summit 2026.

Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Mubarak Bu Qais, Director of the Traffic Culture Directorate, said the system goes beyond



simply recording violations—it aims to deter dangerous behaviour before it leads to tragedy.

"A moment of distraction behind the wheel can change a life in seconds," he warned, adding



Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Mubarak Bu Qais, Director of the Traffic Culture Directorate at the General Directorate of Traffic

that a single wrong decision on the road can cause injuries that affect victims for years.

The system uses AI-powered algorithms to identify offences including illegal overtaking through emergency lanes or pavements, running red lights, speeding, mobile phone use while driving, and unsafe lane changes. It also flags seatbelt violations, illegal U-turns, driving against traffic, ignoring road signs, failure to keep right, and children seated in the front seat.

Once a camera captures an incident, the system conducts an automatic analysis and prepares photographic evidence for human review. Each case is verified for accuracy before a violation is confirmed or rejected. Motorists retain the right to appeal through official procedures.

Lieutenant Colonel Bu Qais said the system integrates artificial intelligence, plate recognition, and two-way connectivity with other traffic platforms.



Bahrain will deploy 100 additional smart traffic cameras in September, expanding a surveillance network built to flag dangerous driving before it causes accidents.

Cash for Recycling?

Bahrain Explores Smart Reverse Vending Machines

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Bahrain is considering introducing smart reverse vending machines that reward residents with instant cash points for recycling plastic bottles and aluminium cans, as part of its broader efforts to develop smarter and more sustainable cities.

Speaking at the closing session of the Smart Cities Conference, Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, said the Kingdom is studying Saudi Arabia's successful recycling model as a potential framework for implementation.

The proposed initiative is based on Saudi Arabia's reverse vending machine programme, launched in Riyadh through a partnership between the Riyadh Municipality and the Saudi Investment Recycling Company (SIRC). The machines, installed in parks and public spaces, allow residents to deposit used plastic bottles and



aluminium cans in exchange for instant reward points.

Acting Director of the Public Cleanliness Directorate Ammar Abdulkareem said the technology could play a key role in modernising Bahrain's waste management system, although several concepts would need to be tested locally before implementation.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahmood Al Afia, Head of Administrative Services and Coordination at the Northern Municipal Council,

called for expanding recycling initiatives to include paper and wood, in addition to plastic and aluminium, to further support environmental sustainability.

Abdulhameed Al Sayeh, Head of Household Waste Regulation Operations at Estidama, said officials are preparing to send a specialised delegation to Saudi Arabia to study the initiative and develop an implementation timeline once all aspects of the project have been agreed upon.



Saudi Arabia aims to recycle 95% of its waste by 2035, with an ambitious programme expected to divert 82% of waste from landfills while creating around 100,000 jobs to support a circular economy.

Passenger Traffic Surges at Bahrain Airport

Summer travel and restored flight schedules expected to drive further demand

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain's air traffic rose sharply in May after a steep fall in April, new Civil Aviation Affairs figures show. Passenger numbers at Bahrain International Airport climbed from 76,397 in April to 487,069 in May, a rise of 410,672, or about 538 pc.

The April fall came during the Iran-US war and the Iranian attack on Bahrain and the Gulf, which disrupted flights and airspace use across the region.

Arrivals rose from 37,289 passengers in April to 234,124 in May, up by 196,835, or about 528 pc. Departures increased from 39,108 to 252,684, a rise of 213,576, or about 546 pc.

Aircraft movements also rose. Total arrivals and departures went from 926 in April to 4,875 in May, up by 3,949, or about 426 pc.

Incoming aircraft movements increased from 472 to 2,437, a rise



of 1,965, or about 416 pc. Outgoing movements rose from 454 to 2,438, up by 1,984, or about 437 pc. The figures also show a rise in traffic through Bahrain's airspace. Overflights rose from 548 in April to 11,242 in May, an increase of 10,694, or about 1,951 pc.

Movements in the flight information region rose from 1,474 to 16,117, up by 14,643, or about 993 pc.

The rise comes after the opening of the new passenger terminal at Bahrain International Airport,

which raised airport capacity. Bahrain's Gulf location, links with nearby markets and the presence of international cargo and logistics firms also shape its air freight activity.

Summer travel is likely to add to passenger demand in the coming months, with annual holidays, family trips, resident travel and seasonal flights. Cargo volumes are also expected to draw support from the return of regular flight timetables and higher operating capacity.