

Weekender

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Because every week deserves a happy ending



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Straying Safe



Cheryl Nielson

A topic of discussion and worry that resurfaces regularly, dealing with the stray dog population in Bahrain is a sensitive process that requires constant updating of awareness. Weekender has featured the issue of stray dogs before, and is once again in conversation with Cheryl Nielson, the founder of Bahrain Dumped Dogs.

The following are helpful guidelines on dealing with stray dogs, as outlined by Cheryl.

As we have been seeing on social media, there are many people that are truly scared of the stray dogs, and really don't want them near their homes. We can't ignore the fact that this is true. The Ministry's answer to this, at present, is to trap the dogs and move them to remote areas of Askar and Hidd. Thanks to a handful of volunteers, their basic needs of food, water and some shelter have been met, in addition to getting many of them spayed/neutered to avoid further litters. Please do not set the trapped dogs free, "Legal

action will be taken against anyone who obstructs official efforts to tackle the country's stray dog issue". Ask the driver who is transporting the dogs where he is taking the dogs.

If you are feeding or caring for strays, please do so away from residential areas and busy roads to avoid problems. Feed only three times per week so they will retain their foraging tendencies. Making them dependent on humans upsets the natural balance. Dogs that have been befriended by humans become groomed to believe that all humans are friendly and can be food and attention sources for them. So, it becomes natural for them to approach humans, regardless of the humans' feelings about them - they don't know the difference. We can't make those afraid of strays less afraid, but we can try to accommodate both the humans and the strays.

For those of you that would rather not interact with the strays, here is some helpful information when being approached by a dog(s):

Gauge The Dog's Demeanour - Is the dog

aggressive or afraid?

Signs of Aggression Include:

- baring teeth.
- lifted tail.
- raised ears.
- raised hackles (the fur behind the neck).

Signs of Fear Include:

- tucking the tail.
- laid back ears.
- snarling or barking.

Stay Calm and Walk Away, Don't Run -

This is the most important thing to remember. If a stray dog is barking at you from a distance, it is likely warning you to stay away from its territory. It may even be protecting the rest of its pack and/or offspring. As long as you remain calm and slowly walk away, you should have no problem. Dogs are instinctively prone to give chase, and it is unlikely that you will outrun them. Dogs that run you down are likely to bite your legs to make you stop. If you are a runner or a bicyclist, best thing to do is to stop and walk until you are further away. Avoid confrontational posturing and direct eye contact.

Avoid Confrontations With Packs - Dog packs are a bit harder as the dogs' confidence is multiplied when they have their buddies around. If a dog pack is just sleeping or acting friendly, you are probably OK. But trust your instincts and if you feel threatened, find another way around.

Send Calming Signals - There are simple and important ways you can signal to a dog that you have peaceful intents. By doing these, you are telling the dog you mean no harm and will avoid triggering its aggression. By telling them in their own language that

you're not there to threaten them, they are likely to back down.

Some Useful Calming Signals Are:

- yawning.
- licking your lips.
- avoiding eye contact - look away.
- standing sideways to the dog.
- letting them approach and sniff you (but don't raise your arms or hands as they might be surprised and bite).

Avoid Acting Dominant - If you escalate aggression, there is always a risk they will follow suit. Remember, the goal is to get away unscathed, not prove you're more dominant than the strays.

Ask Rescuers/Animal Advocates for help - Please avoid confrontations. Calmly explain to the advocates that you are afraid of the strays and would like to not have them near your residence. You will often find they will do what they can to possibly relocate them.

Avoid Picking Up Rocks Or Other Items - Dogs will surely perceive this as an act of aggression and view this as a source of impending pain - which says a lot about the abuse they have likely received.

If you do all of the above, a physical confrontation is unlikely. The goal, as always, is for peaceful coexistence.



Eating out

WHAT: FRIDAY BRUNCHISM
WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
WHERE: INTERCONTINENTAL REGENCY

Spread across 3 venues, the InterContinental Regency's Friday Brunchism is not just a brunch, but a lifestyle, a plethora of experience offering a large spread of buffet, live food stations, live entertainment, kids' activities and much more. Every week the brunch will bring you something new to experience be it in the form of art, music or fashion, there is always something new to look forward to.

WHAT: MEAT LOVES PLATTER
WHEN: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17
WHERE: RIC'S KOUNTRY KITCHEN

It's all about grilled meat with our chef's secret recipes and smoked with charcoal served in a wooden board and some mouthwatering side dishes, along with unlimited Beverages. So what for you are waiting for! Every Thursday from 6 pm till 10 pm.

WHAT: WINE AND CHEESE NIGHT
WHEN: MONDAY, OCTOBER 21
WHERE: LNT GASTROPUB

Say Cheese! Our next Wine and Cheese night is on this 21st of October, from 7 pm. EAT. DRINK. MINGLE!



Nightlife & Music

WHAT: S.O.S POOL PARTY
WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
WHERE: MUJU DRAGON HOTEL

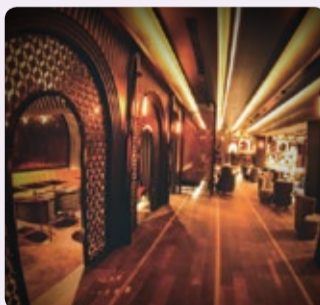
The weather is perfect for a pool party so don't miss out. Feat DJ COSSTA and DJ SAMI DE!

WHAT: THE POP HOUSE 13 TOUR
WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
WHERE: POLO GASTROPUB

Join us on Friday for another awesome evening at polo featuring live music.

WHAT: LIVE SOUL SESSION WITH MANNY
When: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
Where: CODA JAZZ LOUNGE

Coda is proud to present American singer/songwriter MANNY who will be performing his unique repertoire of R&B, Funk & Soul live in concert on Saturday



Forever Home Hopefuls

Ready to take them home?

Every week, Weekender, in collaboration with the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA), will showcase two adorable fur babies who are looking for their Forever Homes.

MOJO

Type: Cat
Breed: Domestic Medium Haired
Colour: Peach/Cream
Gender: Male
Age: 6 Months
Neutered: No

Mojo is the BSPCA's cat of the week. Mojo is an amazingly friendly cat that has nothing but kindness and care to offer. He is a very affectionate cat that loves chasing strings around and playing with his little cat toys. Mojo also usually enjoys spending his time absorbing some sunlight out in the garden or near the windows. His curiosity, playful nature and keenness to show his care make him the perfect house cat and little four-legged buddy to add to your family and home. This little character is always a pleasant joy to be around. Mojo is De-Wormed and Fully Vaccinated.



MANGO

Type: Dog
Breed: Mixed
Colour: White
Gender: Female
Age: 6 Years
Neutered: Yes

Mango is the BSPCA's dog of the week. Mango is an incredibly friendly yet very misunderstood little one. She has sadly been at the shelter for over 5 years (1849 days) now and is that very sweet and playful dog that unfortunately always gets overlooked by everyone, except for our wonderful volunteers. Mango deserves a much better home and loving family that'll look beyond her scrawny and plain looks to see the big heart that she always carries with her. Her presence and lively character will instantly add a warm and happy vibe to any household and is sure to never disappoint with her lovable personality. Mango is Neutered, Tick-Treated, De-Wormed and Fully Vaccinated.



THE RITZ-CARLTON

PINK PARTY

OCTOBER 17, 2019
8 PM - 1 AM | PRIVATE ISLAND

TICKETS:
BHD 25, RBC MEMBERS AND HOTEL GUESTS
BHD 35, NON-MEMBERS

VIP TABLES ARE AVAILABLE
OPEN BUFFET AND BEVERAGES
TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

DRESS CODE: PINK, SMART CASUAL

5% OF THE TOTAL SALES FROM ALL PINK MONTH
ACTIVITIES WILL GO TO THINK PINK BAHRAIN

FOR MORE INFORMATION, DIAL +973 1758 6499.