Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare
Teramo, Italy 5-7 March 2013

Work of NGOs in the Implementation of OIE Standard for stray dog control and Rabies eradication

Presentation by WSPA and RSPCA

Dr David Wilkins  MBE MA MRCVS
Senior Veterinary Consultant
The role of international animal welfare organisations in supporting the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards
WSPA and RSPCA and other Animal Welfare NGOs have supported dog population management/ rabies control projects around the world.
We have global reach
We work in collaboration with governments
We are science-based
We are always seeking to improve welfare
We bring practical solutions
Implementing the OIE Standard for Dog Population Control

- OIE Standard:
  - recognises that dog population management is an integral part of rabies control programmes
  - recognises that culling alone not effective for population control
  - specifies unacceptable measures for euthanasia of dogs
  - confirms the importance of controlling dog populations without causing unnecessary animal suffering
Rabies control in Bali, Indonesia

- Widespread culling in response to rabies outbreak in late 2008
- Strychnine used, contrary to OIE standard.
- Not effective for either disease or population control – rabies cases spread.
• WSPA led mass dog vaccination campaign without inhumane culling.

• Humane euthanasia for rabid and incurably sick dogs.

• Support from other international organisations.

• Community education and Government engagement.
Balinese Government now leading programme.

Further reductions in dog and human deaths.

Successful humane rabies control work created has basis for wider engagement on dog population management – in Bali and other parts of Indonesia (non-emergency context).

210,000 dogs vaccinated

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<td>Human Rabies</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Dog Rabies</td>
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Thank you for your attention

Thanks to Kelly (HSI) and Kate (IFAW)
Stray animal practices in Europe: An overview

Alexandra Hammond-Seaman
RSPCA International
RSPCA in Europe

- Shelter management and catching and handling workshops in 30+ countries across Europe.
- Support dog population surveys in the Western Balkans.
- Work with the competent authorities to develop specific legislation for stray dog control.
- Provide technical assistance and support for the development of specific DPM strategies.
- Assist and support TAIEX workshops in HR, BiH, MG.
- Study trips for the shelter operators and managers.
Developing humane DPM intervention

◆ Support initial dog population assessment and community surveys.

◆ Work with the key stakeholders to develop targeted and comprehensive intervention measures.

◆ Provide advice and technical assistance for the competent authorities and shelter managers.

◆ Deliver catching and handling and shelter training for municipal staff, service providers, veterinarians and NGOs.

◆ Support awareness raising and education activities.
Legislation overview in Europe

- 87% have legislation that covers AW and the protection of animals
- 70% of countries prohibit abandonment
- 50% restrict selling and breeding of dogs
- 42% had national legislation that specifically addresses pet ownership (dog control laws)
- 70% compulsory identification and licensing but report little effect due to poor implementation in 48% and little effect on stray dog numbers
- In countries where dog identification and registration were rigorously enforced it was considered the most effective element of in successful stray control practices.

Stray animal control practices (Europe), WSPA and RSPCA report, 2007
No census or population data was systematically recorded nationally by a central government or agencies responsible for stray dog control.

Stray animal control practices (Europe), WSPA and RSPCA report, 2007
Dog population management
Methods of stray dog control in Europe

In those countries that caught strays 10 (32%) euthanized animals at the end of the holding period, 2 (6%) euthanized upon capture, and 3(10%) did not legally permit the euthanasia of healthy dogs. Holding periods varied from 3-60 days.

Stray animal control practices (Europe), WSPA and RSPCA report, 2007
State of play in the EU

- Approx. 197 million companion animals owned by households in the EU.

- This includes around 64 million pet cats and 60 million pet dogs.

- No specific legislation at the EU level to protect the companion apart from the pet passports scheme requiring animals travelling with their owners to be permanently identified.

- However there is no registration system across the EU making traceability difficult.

- MSs have adopted legislation which varies across the EU.

- No EU legislation regarding the stray dog control practices.
Dog population management
Related costs in EU MSs

**France**
17 million dogs and cats
1 million puppies sold per year
100,000 dogs abandoned each year

Only 530 shelters for 36,779 villages
= 70 villages per shelter
Cost Fondation BB 2 million
SPA 27 million

**UK**
14 million dogs and cats
100 rehoming centres
+70,000 abandoned animals
Cost to shelters RSPCA 53 Million
Dog population management
Where do they come from?
Dog population management
Targeting the source
HUMANE DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

Available in:

English, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Mandarin and Thai
MISSION

To support the development and use of humane and effective companion animal population management worldwide.
Dog population management
One size does not fit all

TOTAL DOG POPULATION

CONFINED/CONTROLLED

ROAMING

DOGS IN BREEDING/COMMERCIAL SUPPLY CHAIN

OWNED DOGS

OWNED dogs – lost

Owned dogs – abandoned

Owned dogs – roaming

Unowned dogs – born roaming

LOST

REUNITED

ABANDONMENT

RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

REHOMING

ICAM, 2007
A. DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT: What’s the real problem?

What are community members’ key concerns?
How many animals are there?
Where are they coming from?
What welfare issues do they face?
What is currently being done?
B. RELEVANT FACTORS FOR ANALYSIS:
Why does this problem exist?

Human attitudes/behaviour
Owned animals
Unowned animals
Abandoned animals
Environmental factors
Community resources and stakeholder actions
B. INFLUENTIAL FACTORS

Human behaviour
Reproduction
Access to resources
Zoonoses
Public and dog welfare
C. COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME

Education
Legislation
Basic veterinary care
Registration, identification
Sterilisation
Holding facilities/rehoming centres
Euthanasia
D. DESIGNING THE INTERVENTION

Sustainability

Aims, objective and activities

Defining policy and setting standards
Key Elements
Dog population management
Remaining challenges

Public attitudes / perception – societal dimension

Political will – right motivation for DPM vs. quick fixes

Improve enforcement of the existing laws

Set clear competencies for DPM

Develop infrastructure and resources

Education and training at all levels
Dog population management
Policy and research needs

- Defining key outcome indicators to precede DPM intervention and to measure impact.
- Baseline data collection to measure effectiveness, economic sustainability and determine what works while safeguarding the principles of good welfare.
- Monitoring, evaluation and review to feedback into policy making/refinement.
- Developing specific indicators to address the multiple facets of this issue.
Thank you!

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