

The new TAHC Chapter 7.7 on dog population management

Paolo Dalla Villa

*Technical Officer - Disaster Management and Animal Welfare
WOAH Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels*

5th regional workshop on dog population management for Balkans countries (SDB5)

4-6 July, 2023 - Croatia



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



The revised CHAP 7.7 on dog population management

Adopted at the 89th OIE General Session (23-27 May, 2022)

- The **scope was redefined** to focus on the **welfare of dogs** when implementing **Dog Population management (DPM) programmes** aiming at **improving human health and safety**, animal health and animal welfare and minimizing their potential negative socio-economic and environmental impacts (**a One-Health perspective**)
- The **terminology was harmonised** to be consistent with other TAHG Chapters
- **New articles** were either added or reorganised to address the **wider scope** (i.e., roles and responsibilities) and to ensure **most up-to-date guidance**
- **To be read in conjunction with Art. 7.7.1** on "Introduction to recommendations relating to animal welfare"



Original: English
February 2022

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION Paris, 1–11 February 2022

PART A – Texts to be proposed for adoption in May 2022

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) held its meeting electronically from 1 to 11 February 2022. The list of participants is attached as [Annex 1](#).

Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the 89th Annual General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates will be held in a semi-hybrid format from Monday 23 to Friday 27 May 2022. During the 89th General Session new and revised chapters of the OIE International Standards (the *Aquatic Animal Health Code*, the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*) will be proposed for adoption.

To facilitate this process, the **February 2022 meeting report of the Code Commission will be distributed in two parts: Part A** (herewith) provides information about the new and revised texts for the *Terrestrial Code* that will be proposed for adoption at the 89th General Session; and **Part B** (to be published in April 2022) will provide information about other topics discussed at the Commission's February 2022 meeting including texts circulated for comments and information.

In preparation for the 89th General Session, the OIE will once again organise information webinars to ensure that Members are aware of the background and key aspects of the standards being presented for adoption. Attendance to these webinars will be by invitation only. Please note that Delegates will soon receive detailed information about the 89th General Session, and in particular the process for the adoption of standards.

The Code Commission thanked the following Members for providing comments: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Japan, Mexico, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA), Zimbabwe, the Member States of the European Union (EU), the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) on behalf of African Members of the OIE. The Commission also thanked the following organisations for providing comments: the Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA), the International Meat Secretariat (IMS), the World Renderers Organization (WRO), as well as various experts of the OIE scientific network.

The Code Commission reviewed all comments that were submitted prior to the deadline and supported by a rationale. The Commission made amendments to draft texts, where relevant, in the usual manner by 'double underline' and 'strike-through'. In relevant annexes, amendments proposed at this meeting are highlighted with a coloured background to distinguish them from those made previously. Due to the large number of comments, the Commission was not able to provide a detailed explanation on the reasons for accepting or not each of the comments considered, and focused its explanations on significant issues. Where amendments were of an editorial nature, no explanatory text has been provided. The Commission wished to note that not all texts proposed by Members to improve clarity were accepted; in these cases, it considered the text clear as currently written.

The Code Commission encourages Members to refer to previous reports considering longstanding issues. The Commission also draws the attention of Members to those instances where the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission), the Biological Standards Commission (the Laboratories Commission), a Working Group or an *ad hoc* Group have addressed specific comments or questions and proposed answers or amendments. In such cases the rationale is described in the reports of the Scientific Commission, the Laboratories Commission, Working Group or *ad hoc* Groups, and Members are encouraged to review these reports together with the report of the Code Commission. These reports are readily available on the [OIE website](#).



Guiding principles (Art 7.7.4)

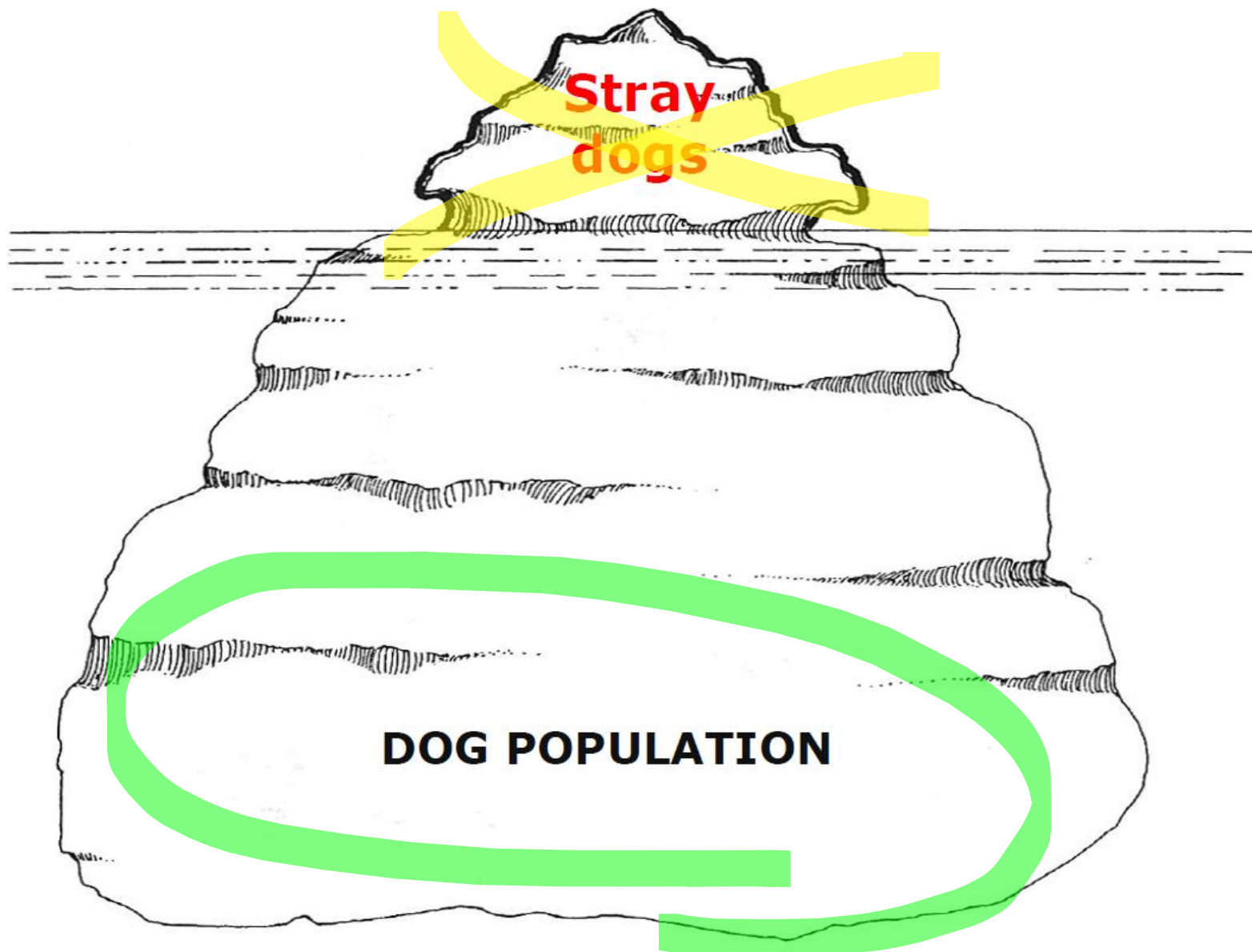
- *DPM has direct benefits to public health and safety, and to animal health and welfare.*
- Dogs are a domesticated species and therefore dependent on human communities, thus *there is an ethical responsibility* to ensure their health and welfare even in the absence of ownership.
- Recognising the *diversity of stakeholders* in the management of dog populations, it is crucial to clarify *roles and responsibilities*.
- *Dog ecology is linked with human activities.* DPM should be accompanied by changes in human behaviour, including *promotion of responsible ownership*.
- The *owned dog population* is a common source of free-roaming dogs, DPM programmes should *consider all dogs*.
- *Local dog population dynamics and community attitudes* is a key element in determining whether and how DPM programmes might contribute to rabies control and which tools would be most successful.
- Sources and drivers of free-roaming dogs and management goals differ across communities, DPM should be *individually tailored to local and national contexts*.
- DPM programmes should be designed to be *sustainable, aligned with legislative requirements, evaluated and adaptable*.

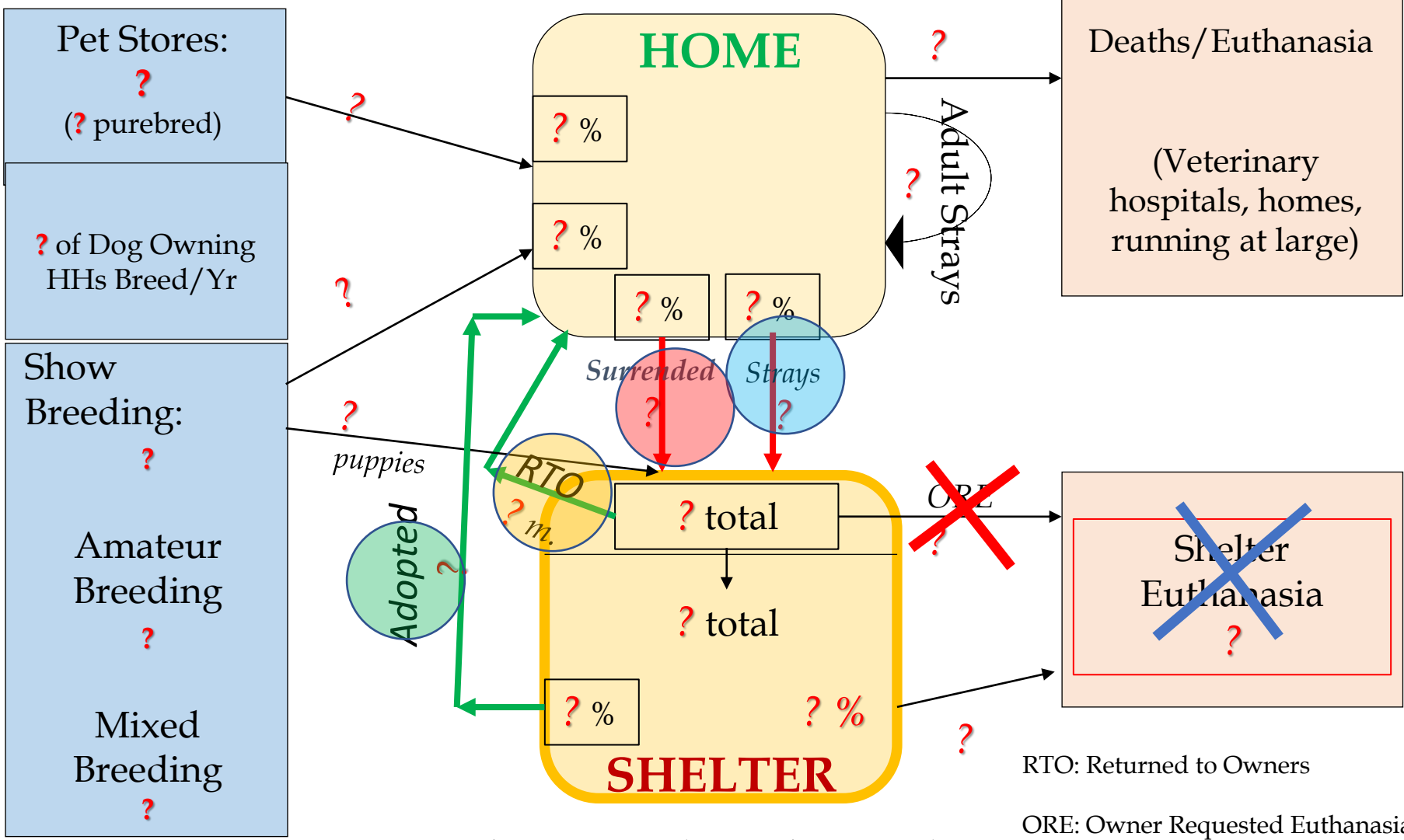
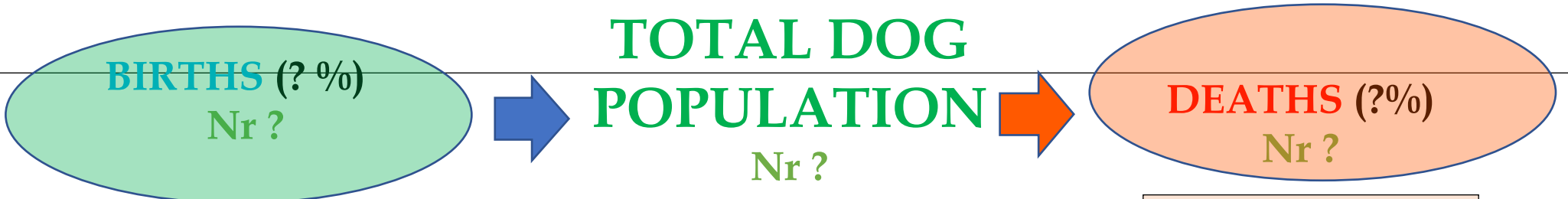


The term '**stray dog**' has been replaced with '**free-roaming dog**' also in the Glossary.

*"any **owned dog or unowned dog** that is without direct human supervision or control,
including feral dogs"*

Based on the behaviour of a **dog** which is roaming without **restriction** but does not imply any ownership status.





Anthrozoos, 1995 (Patronek & Rowan)

RTO: Returned to Owners
 ORE: Owner Requested Euthanasia

The revised TAHC Chapter 7.7 on dog population management

Article 7.7.1. Introduction

Article 7.7.2. Definitions

Article 7.7.3. Scope

Article 7.7.4. Guiding principles

Article 7.7.5. Dog Population Management objectives

Article 7.7.6. Roles and responsibilities

Article 7.7.7. Competent Authority for Dog Population Management (DPM)

Article 7.7.8. Other organizations and actors involved in DPM

Article 7.7.9. Regulatory framework

Article 7.7.10. Evidence-based programme development

Article 7.7.11. DPM programme assessment and planning

Article 7.7.12. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 7.7.13. Recommendations for DPM measures

Article 7.7.14. Registration and identification of dogs

Article 7.7.15. Regulation of commercial dog breeding and sale

Article 7.7.16. Control of national and international (export or import) dog movements

Article 7.7.17. Promoting responsible dog ownership

Article 7.7.18. Reproductive control

Article 7.7.19. Catch, neuter, vaccination and return

Article 7.7.20. Reuniting and adoption

Article 7.7.21. Access to veterinary care

Article 7.7.22. Environmental controls

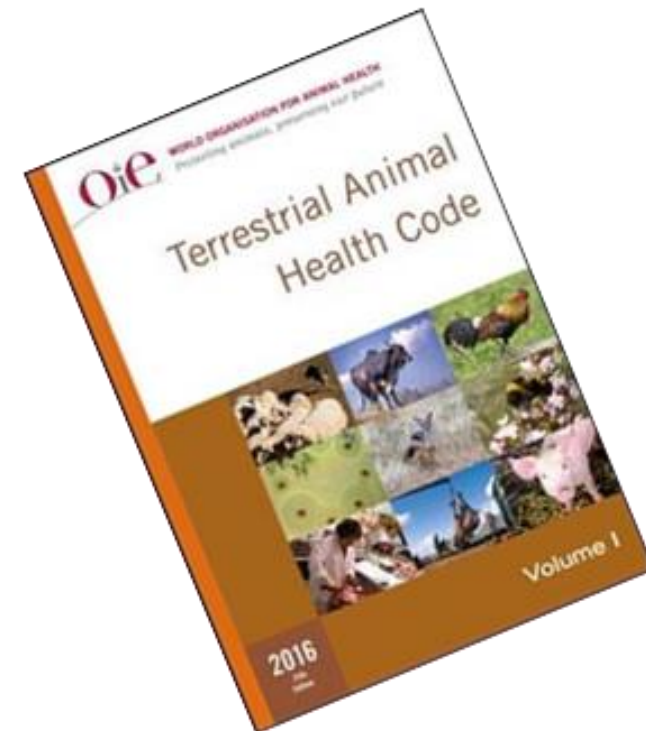
Article 7.7.23. Educating in safe dog-human interaction

Article 7.7.24. Specific considerations for DPM

Article 7.7.25. Capture and handling

Article 7.7.26. Housing

Article 7.7.27. Euthanasia





The National Action plan

Article 7.7.7. Competent Authority for Dog Population Management

The development of DPM occurs at the **local level through specific DPM programmes**, whose success requires a **supportive and enabling environment** created by the *Competent Authority* at the national level.

Point 1 - Governance

“DPM is the responsibility of a Competent Authority, which **may be the *Veterinary Authority***.”

A ***national action plan*** provides the details of actions which support the implementation of **DPM programmes** and coordinate with other action plans, such as those focused on dog-related zoonoses.

Point 4 - Funding

To establish sustainable DPM with long-lasting impacts, the *Competent Authority* and multi-sectorial group should establish a policy and legislative basis for sufficient funding of ***national action plans*** and **DPM programmes**.



Dog Population Management programme means a combination of measures that enhance the care of dogs and influence dog population dynamics to sustainably improve dog health and welfare, public health and safety, and the environment, while taking into consideration related economic benefits and costs.

Article 7.7.8. Other organisations and actors involved in Dog Population Management
Veterinary Services should play an active role and coordinate their activities with relevant *Competent Authorities*, and may be responsible for the organisation, implementation and supervision of **DPM programmes**.

Article 7.7.10. Evidence-based DPM programme development

Development of DPM programmes should include an initial assessment and ongoing adaptation based on **continued monitoring and evaluation using objective methods**.

Recognising the different needs of communities and the multi-sectorial roles in DPM, it should be conducted with the involvement of **advisory groups and relevant authorities**.

Competent Authorities, in collaboration with the multi-sectoral group, should support evidence-based DPM programmes by:

- identifying **qualified personnel and developing training and tools** to help with implementing data collection (assessment and *monitoring*) and use (planning and evaluation);
- **ensuring the budget of DPM programmes** includes not only the costs for the initial assessment but also for *monitoring* and evaluation activities;
- **establishing standardised indicators** with feasible and repeatable methods of measurement that can be used across locations and over time, to support subsequent evaluations and compare performance between different DPM programmes.
- **encouraging the use of *monitoring* data for evaluation**, learning and subsequent amendments of DPM programmes.



The initial DPM programme development stages of assessment and planning should provide the evidence required for planning and include:

- ✓ **Review of the current regulatory framework** and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of DPM control measures
- ✓ **Identification of the priority issues** from the perspective of all relevant stakeholders.
- ✓ **Exploration of dog population dynamics** in the whole dog population (not limited to the current free-roaming dog population) **to identify the sources of free-roaming dogs.**
- ✓ **Identification of people's knowledge, attitudes and practices** regarding dog care and responsibility for owned dogs and unowned dogs.
- ✓ **Estimation of dog population size and demography.** Accuracy of estimates is typically improved with more time-consuming methods and greater local engagement (with available methods for dog population size estimates)

DPM programmes objectives (Art 7.7.5)

May include the following objectives:

- promote and establish **responsible dog ownership**;
- **improve health and welfare** of dog populations;
- reduce the number of **free-roaming dogs**;
- **stabilise the dog population** by reducing turnover;
- reduce **risks to public health and safety** including dog bites, traffic accidents, and zoonotic diseases such as rabies, leishmaniosis and echinococcosis;
- contribute towards **eradicating dog-mediated human rabies**;
- **reduce nuisance** caused by *free-roaming dogs*;
- **prevent harm to livestock** and other animals;
- **prevent illegal trade** and trafficking of dogs.

DPM measures (Art 7.7.13)

A combination of the following measures should be used for a successful DPM programme:

- **registration and identification** of dogs
- regulation of **commercial dog breeding and sale**
- control of **national and international (export and import)** dog movements
- promoting **responsible dog ownership**
- **reproductive** control
- **'Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return'**
- **reuniting and adoption**
- **access to veterinary care**
- **environmental** controls
- education on safe dog-human interaction

These recommendations for DPM measures should be implemented in accordance with the national context and local circumstances.



DPM activities (Art. 7.7.24)

May be required for the implementation of the DPM measures:

- Dog capture and handling
- Dog housing
- Euthanasia ***“the act of inducing death using a method that causes a rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress to animal”*** (WOAH TAHC Glossary)



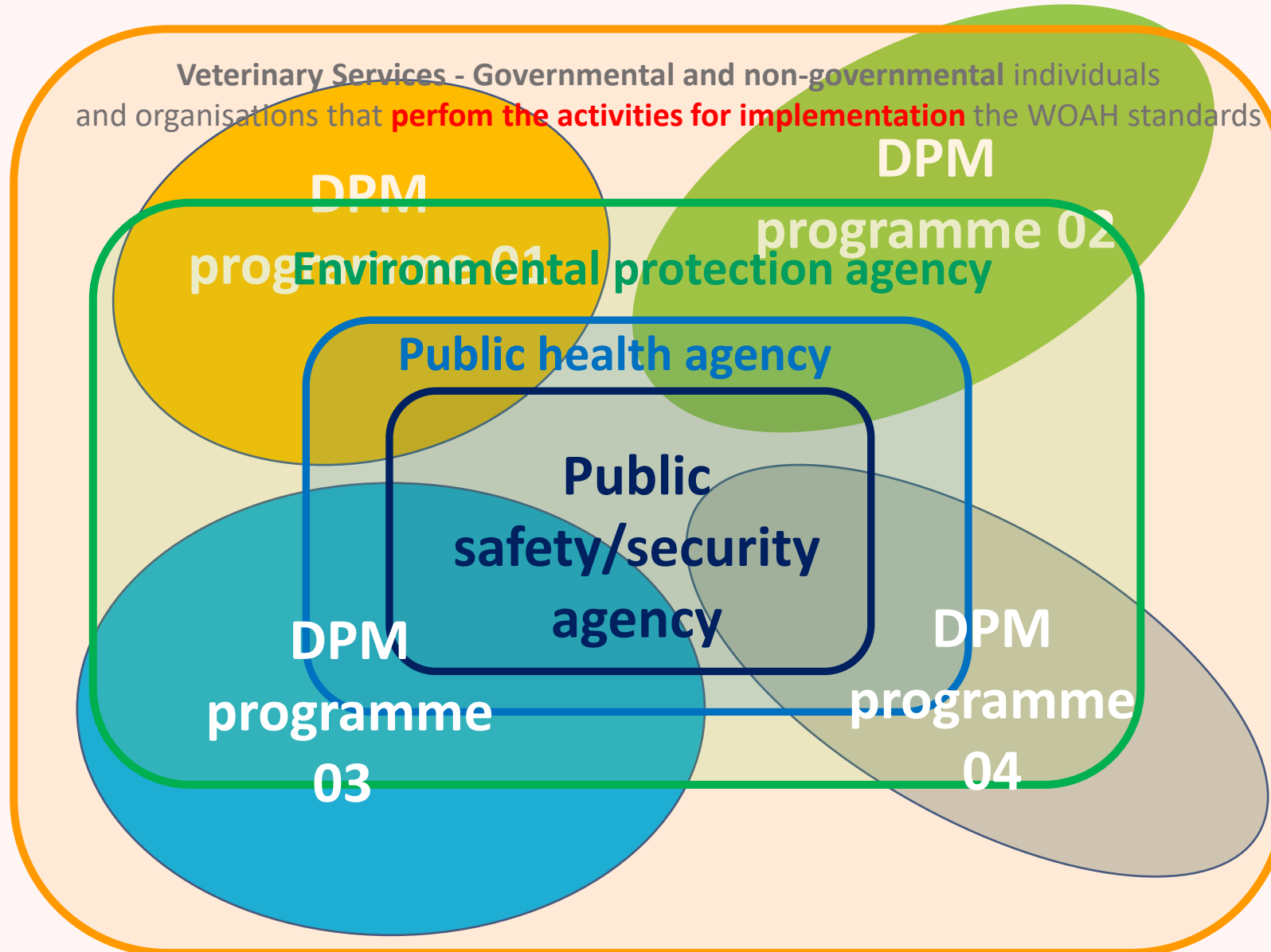
Article 7.7.12. DPM programme monitoring and evaluation

DPM programme **monitoring and evaluation indicators/measurables**:

- **Owned dog population** size, demographics and whether they are receiving there is responsible dog ownership (can include their vaccination status, sterilisation, registration, identification, level and method of confinement and how they were acquired).
- **Free-roaming dog population density**, demography (age, sex, sterilisation, lactating females and puppies) and welfare (e.g. body condition score and, presence of a skin problem) recorded by direct observation of free roaming dogs on surveys along standardised routes.
- **Prevalence of zoonotic diseases** in both the animal and human populations (I.e., rabies and or echinococcosis Echinococcus Chapter 8.14. and Chapter 8.5).
- **Knowledge, attitudes and practices of communities** relating to the free-roaming dog population, and dog owner knowledge, attitudes and practices of regarding **responsible dog ownership**.
- **Dog population movements** from owned to unowned dogs or from confined to free-roaming dogs (based on investigations and monitoring).
- **Reuniting facility performance** including intake, adoption rates, welfare state of dogs in their care, mortality and euthanasia rates.
- **Dog bites** reported to health centres or number of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis courses provided to the exposed individuals, or the cost incurred by the public health authorities for provision of post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Number and nature of **complaints about dogs** to local government authorities.
- **Compensation costs** relating to dog-related damages to people, livestock, or property

Veterinary Authority - Governmental Authority implementation/coordination of the WOAH standards

Veterinary Services - Governmental and non-governmental individuals and organisations that **perform the activities for implementation** the WOAH standards



CHALLENGES

- **Complexity of Animal Welfare** with important scientific, ethical, cultural, religious, economic and political dimens

-
- **Dog population pose different animal welfare, public health and safety issues**
 - WOAH standards **are not legislation**, they need to be adapted for local condition
 - WOAH standards need to be **relevant to all Members**
 - Need to address DPM **from One-Health perspective**



Thank you



12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Flickr](#)

woah@woah.org
www.woah.org



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



OIE Platform
on Animal Welfare
for Europe



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE IN EUROPE

by empowering Veterinary
Services to take actions



HOME

ABOUT

ACTION PLAN

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS

CONTACT

Search

What's New

30-05-21 News
Third Action Plan of the OIE
Platform on Animal Welfare for
Europe

30-06-19 News
Evaluation of the OIE Platform
on Animal Welfare for Europe

24-06-19 News
Regional training seminar for
OIE National Focal Points on
Animal Welfare

Upcoming Events

2019-09-18 Partners Event
3rd International Conference on
Dog Population Management

2019-06-18 OIE Event
OIE REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR
NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR
ANIMAL WELFARE

2019-06-17 Partners Event
EU Platform on Animal Welfare

Platform Highlight

EVALUATION REPORT
OIE Platform on Animal
Welfare for Europe
30-06-19 Evaluation of the OIE Platform
on Animal Welfare for Europe

OIE eDEPOSITORY MATERIALS

Vivre avec un animal de compagnie
updated : 24/11/2015

Code of practice for welfare of dogs
updated : 24/10/2015

A Guide to Monitoring and
Evaluating Dog
updated : 24/11/2015

Get up-to-date with
OIE latest activities
across Europe

ACTIVITIES

Subscribe to our
monthly newsletter or
view and download

NEWSLETTERS

Specific downloadable
materials for Public,
Members and Delegates

MATERIALS

Join our next event or see
more on our calendar

NEXT EVENT

<https://awp.oie.int/>