

# 5th regional Workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkan countries (SDB5)

## Country Report on national situation from Bulgaria

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World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal



- 1. Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities carried out to ensure the application of food and feed law, animal health and welfare rules to them, plant health and plant protection products;*
- 2. Law of the veterinary activity;*
- 3. Animal protection law;*
- 4. Ordinance 41 of 10.12.2008 of the minimum requirements for establishments in which animals are raised, bred and/or marketed for the purpose of commerce, boarding houses and animal shelters;*
- 5. Ordinance 4 of 01.02.2021 for the implementation of the National Program for controlling the population of stray dogs on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and for the procedures for its implementation, the mechanism of financing and accountability;*
- 6. The national program for controlling the population of free-roaming dogs on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and the procedures for its implementation, the mechanism of financing and accountability - adopted in 2019;*
- 7. Municipal ordinances and dog population control programs;*
- 8. Standard operating procedures of the inspection a shelter for free-roaming dogs;*
- 9. Check list for checking shelters for free-roaming animals to comply with rules on health and welfare.*



## National program to control the population of free-roaming dogs (adopted in 2019)

### **Objectives:**

The program aims to establish long-term and effective measures that will lead to the control of the population of free-roaming dogs in the territory of the country through:

implementation of the mechanisms for effective control and reduction of the population of free-roaming dogs on the territory of the country, provided for in the Bulgarian legislation;

implementation of the mechanisms for effective control of breeding and trade in dogs provided for in the Bulgarian legislation;

increase the culture of keeping domestic dogs and promote their castration and registration.

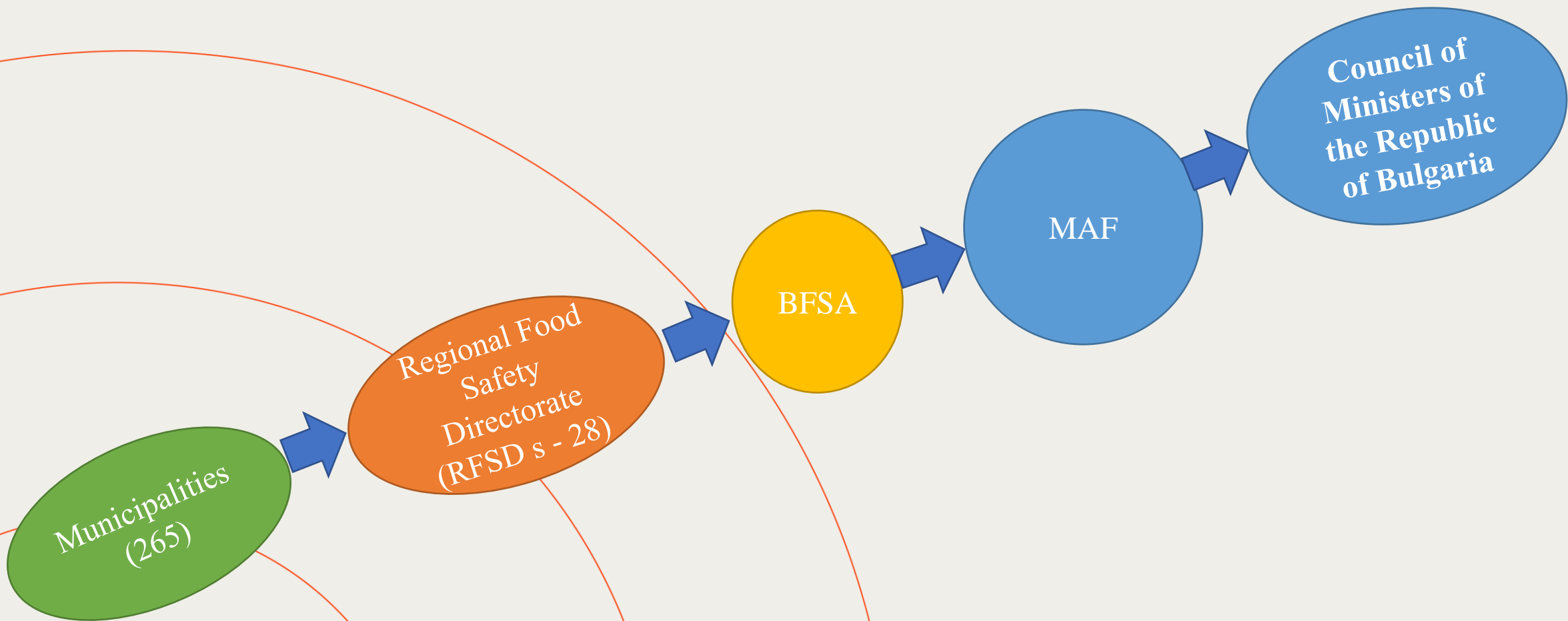


## Tasks:

Analyzing and identifying measures to eliminate the causes leading to the emergence and increase of the population of free-roaming dogs on the territory of the country;  
Identification, registration and entry of data on dogs on the territory of the country in the Integrated Information System of the BFSA;  
Registration of all dog breeding sites;  
Registration and control of all dog traders (objects and/or legal entities and individuals);  
Castration of free-roaming dogs;  
Stimulating the castration of domestic dogs;  
Stimulating the adoption of free-roaming dogs;  
Increasing the awareness and responsibility of citizens in keeping domestic dogs;  
Strengthening public control and the control of state bodies in the work of controlling the population of free-roaming dogs on the territory of the country.



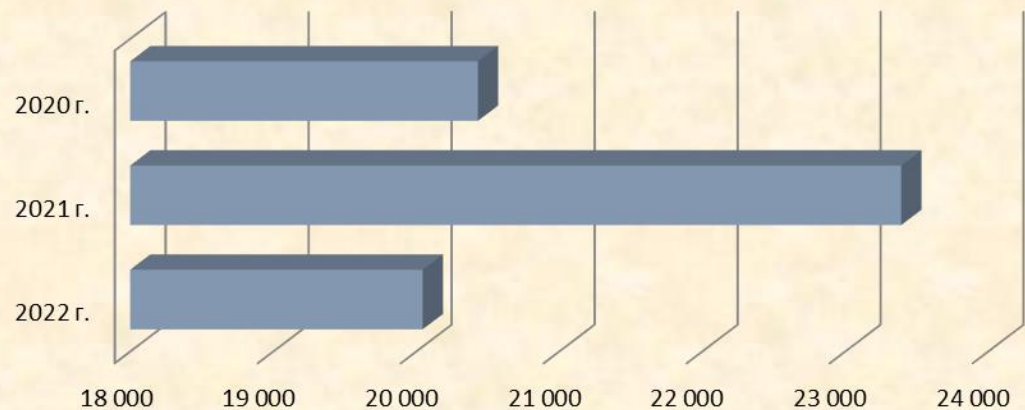
# *Reporting on the implementation of the measures laid down in the National Program*





# I. Understanding country situation

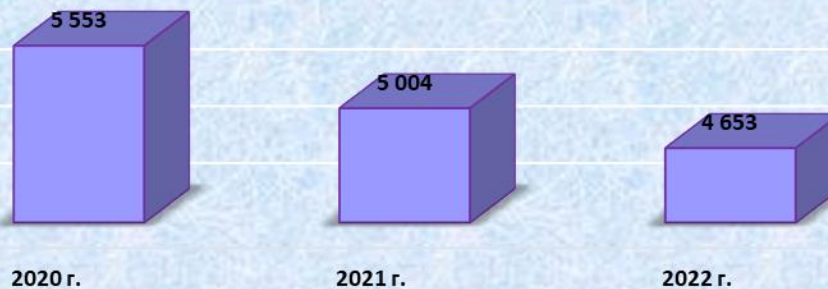
### Captured stray dogs



### Treated and returned stray dogs



### Adopted stray dogs



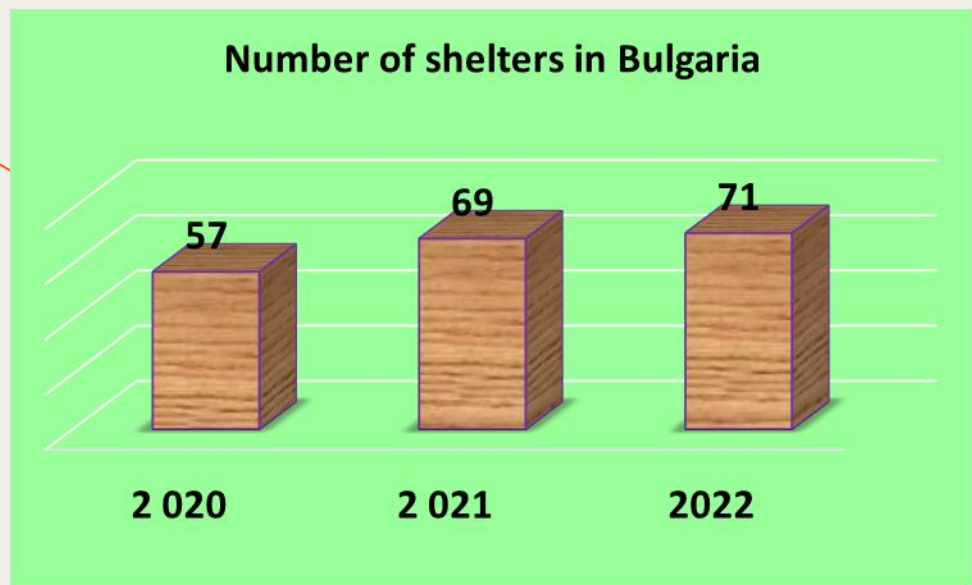




# Shelters for free-roaming dogs

The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency has developed and maintains a National Register of shelters in the Republic of Bulgaria. The information can be found on the BFSA website: [https://bfsa.egov.bg/wps/portal/bfsa-web/registers/reg\\_shelters](https://bfsa.egov.bg/wps/portal/bfsa-web/registers/reg_shelters)

The number of registered shelters on the territory of the country is 71 after the last update of the register, carried out in April 2023.



There is a slight increase compared to 2022, when the number of registered shelters was 69, and in 2020 – 57. Despite the difficult financial situation of most municipalities in the country, there is a significant increase in the number of registered shelters compared to 2020. Out of a total of 71 registered shelters on the territory of the country, about half of them are municipal, and the other part are private, owned by non-governmental organizations for the protection of animals (NGOs), foundations and other legal entities whose activity is intended to protect animals.

## II. Control measures

*National Program for controlling the population of free-roaming dogs  
on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria*



Municipal programs for controlling the population of stray dogs

1. Analyzing the issues related to reducing the number of free-roaming dogs;
2. Dealing with the source of free-roaming dogs;
3. Registration and identification of dogs;
4. Reproductive control of domestic and free-roaming dogs through surgical sterilization;
5. Catching, processing (identification, castration, vaccination against rabies, deworming and returning the dogs to the places of their capture);
6. Implementation of Municipal programs to control the population of free-roaming dogs;





## II. Control measures

*Experience shows that for the implementation of effective control it is necessary to take measures and initiatives requiring the participation of more than one institution involved in the question.*

*The final result depends on the willingness of local authorities (municipalities); Regional Food Safety Directorates (official veterinarians); Bulgarian Food Safety Agency; Ministry of Agriculture and Food; other Government Authorities; NGO for the protection of animals; registered (private practice) veterinarians; dog owners and Community to work closely together and implement an integrated, comprehensive and long-term approach to managing existing stray animal populations, including reducing the occurrence of new stray dogs and cats.*

*According to the information provided in the reports of the municipalities, an increase in the number of free-roaming dogs is mainly observed in autumn, when a large number of new unneutered dogs appear in the settlements. This shows that the source of free-roaming dogs is not the free-roaming dogs themselves, but domestic dogs and their off spring.*

*This necessitates the implementation of enhanced control not only on the municipalities, but also on the owners of domestic dogs.*



## II . Control measures - Important principles for regulating the free-roaming dog population by controlling pet owners:

Encouraging responsible behavior by pet owners by complying with applicable national legislation:

Dogs over 6 weeks of age are subject to:

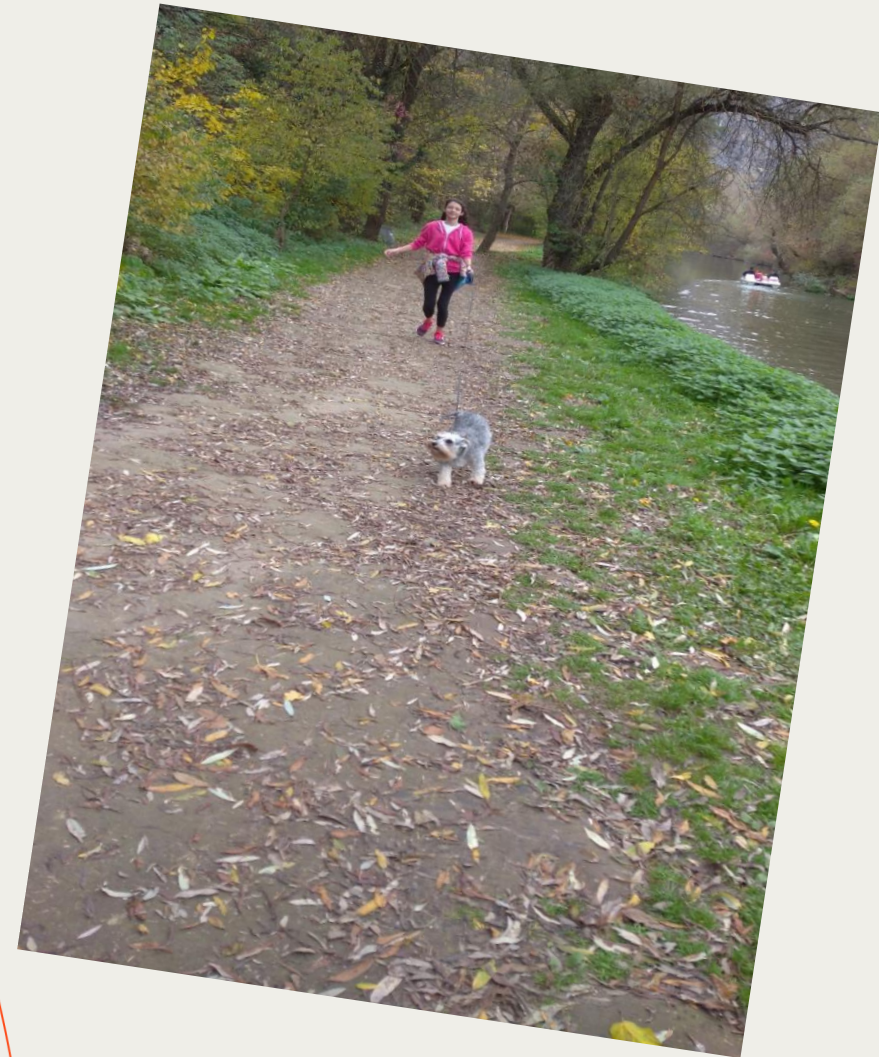
- mandatory identification by means of microchip and passport- deworming and vaccination against dog diseases other than rabies;

Dogs over 12 weeks but no more than 6 months of age:

- initial vaccination against rabies. Each subsequent vaccination against rabies is carried out 12 months after the previous one;

After performing the actions, the veterinarian enters the data into the Integrated Information System.

Registration of dogs in the Municipality.





## III. Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring of the dynamics in the free-roaming dog population includes a system of observations, analyzes and evaluation of actions and events directly related to the implementation of the National Program:

- . **Free-roaming dogs counted;**
- . **Captured free-roaming dogs;**
- . **Number of treated and returned dogs;**
- . **Number of adopted dogs;**
- . **Number of euthanized dogs;**
- . **Number of dead dogs.**
- . **Number of identified and entered dogs (domestic/non-domestic) in the system is indicative.**

Based on the obtained data, an assessment of the effectiveness of the applied measures is made.





## IV. Rabies dimension



No case of rabies has been registered on the territory of the country for last 9 years.

Bulgaria has the status of a "rabies-free" country.

## V. Country roadmap Key Actions

In parallel with the control carried out in the country, active information campaigns are also carried out. Some of them focus on the responsibilities of pet owners and others on adopting pets from shelters.

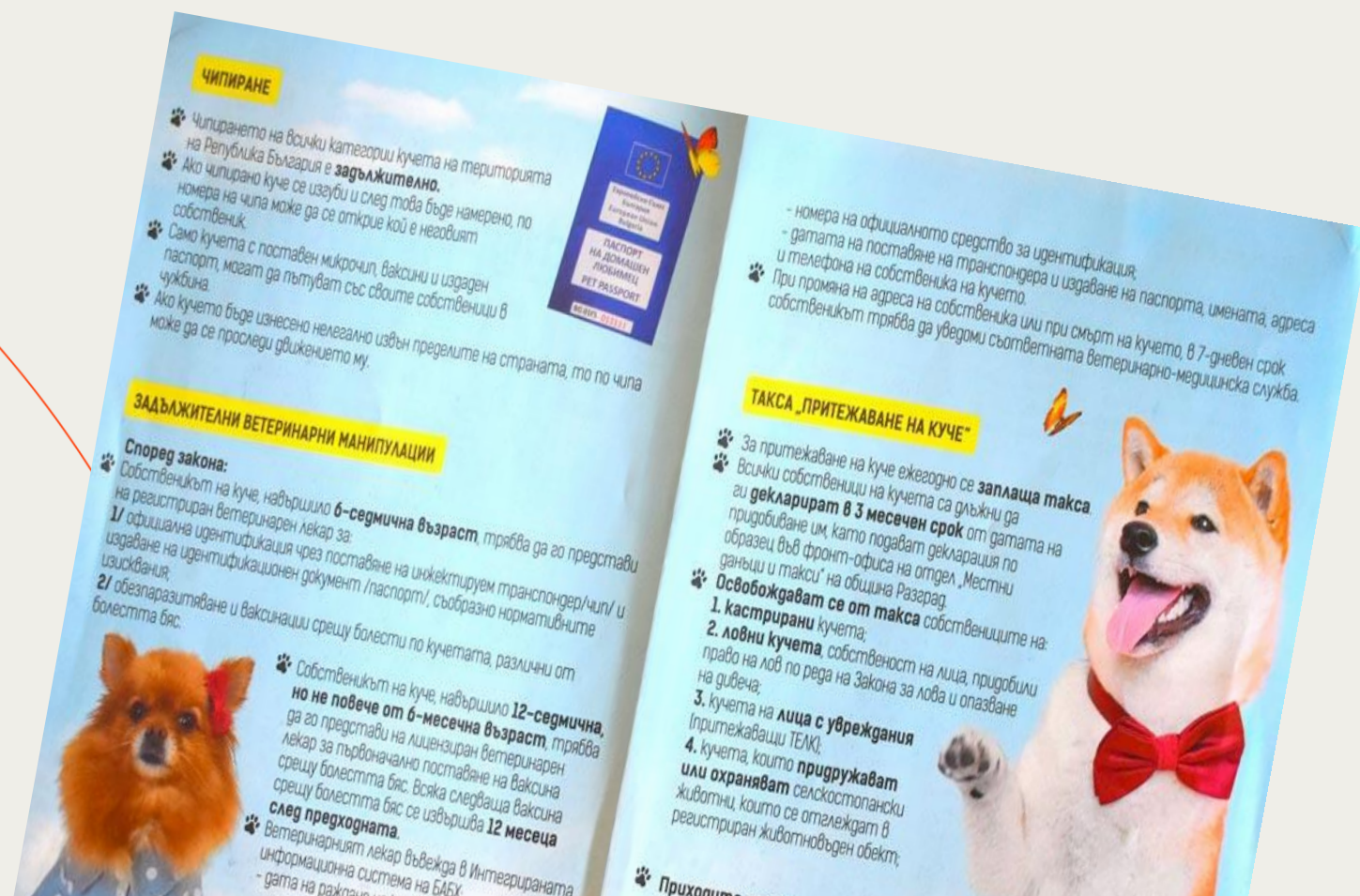
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Registration of dogs in the Municipality.







# Information campaigns

In many places in Bulgaria, information campaigns continue to be organized and conducted, directing the attention of citizens to free-roaming dogs and the possibility of adopting them from shelters.

Representatives of the local government (organizers), RFSD, private practicing veterinarians, NGOs and interested parties participate in the campaign.

The initiatives continue throughout the year.

Posters and newsletters are distributed, informing the public about the structure and activities of shelters for homeless animals, the offers and the benefits of adopting a dog from there.

Information bulletins are also distributed in public places, containing information on the basic rights and obligations of dog owners, related to mandatory veterinary manipulations, chipping of animals, so "owning a dog", exemption from it, the activities for which they are used the income from this fee and others.

**НЕ Е ПОЗВОЛЕНО:**

- Разхождането на кучета на детски площадки.
- Извеждането на кучета без повод.
- Извеждането на агресивни кучета без повод и без намордник.
- Когато собственикът извежда кучето си на разходка, той трябва да носи със себе си ветеринарномедицинския паспорт на животното, квитанция за платена такса към съответната община или бележка, че кучето е освободено от такси и да ги представя по време на проверката, извършвана от ветеринарномедицинските, общинските и други органи.

ОБЩИНА РАЗГРАД

ПРИЮТ РАЗГРАД

## ИНФОРМАЦИОНЕН БЮЛЕТИН

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„Приют за бездомни животни и скитащи кучета“ – Разград

НА ВНИМАНИЕТО НА СОБСТВЕНИЦИТЕ НА КУЧЕТА

Всички собственици на кучета са длъжни да ги отглеждат при спазване изискванията на Закона за ветеринарномедицинската дейност /ЗВМД/ и Закон за защита на животните /ЗЗЖ/

Община Разград

Приют за бездомни животни и скитащи кучета

Монитор





# Осинови (си) обич

Информационна кампания на Община Стара Загора



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на Община Ст. Загора

0887 819 902

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Официална страница  
на Приюта

112

Единен спешен номер



## ОБЩИНА СЕВЛИЕВО

# ВЗЕМИ МЕ, ИСКАМ ДОМ



Запознай се с обитателите на Приюта в село Душево и намери своя нов приятел. Кучетата в стационара са социализирани и всеотдайни, те са там и Ви чакат, готови да Ви бъдат верни приятели, в замяна на дом и стопани. Всяко куче има своя чар и доброта, и търси някой, който истински го обича.



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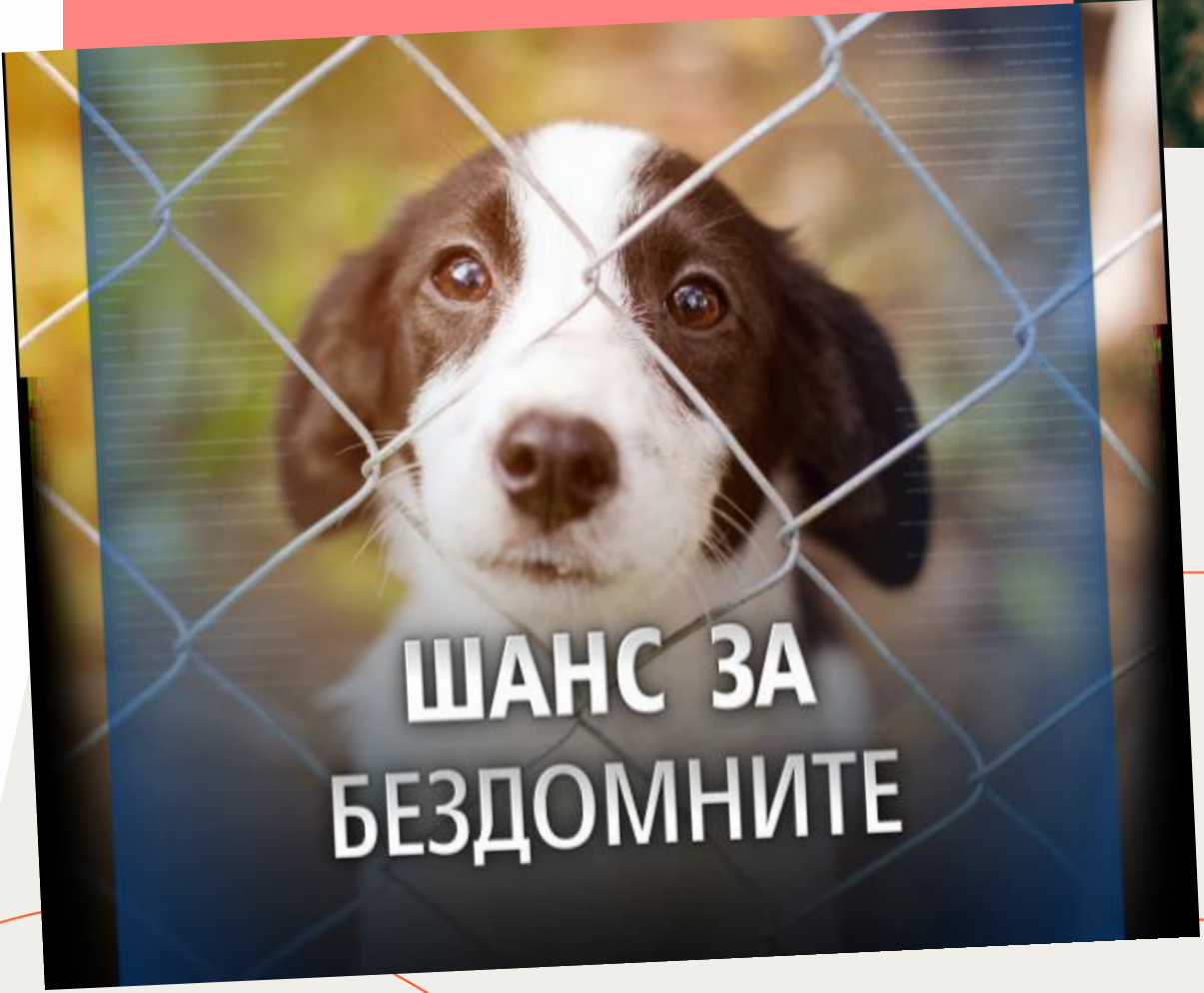




# Бездомен или ДОМашен? Ключът е в теб!

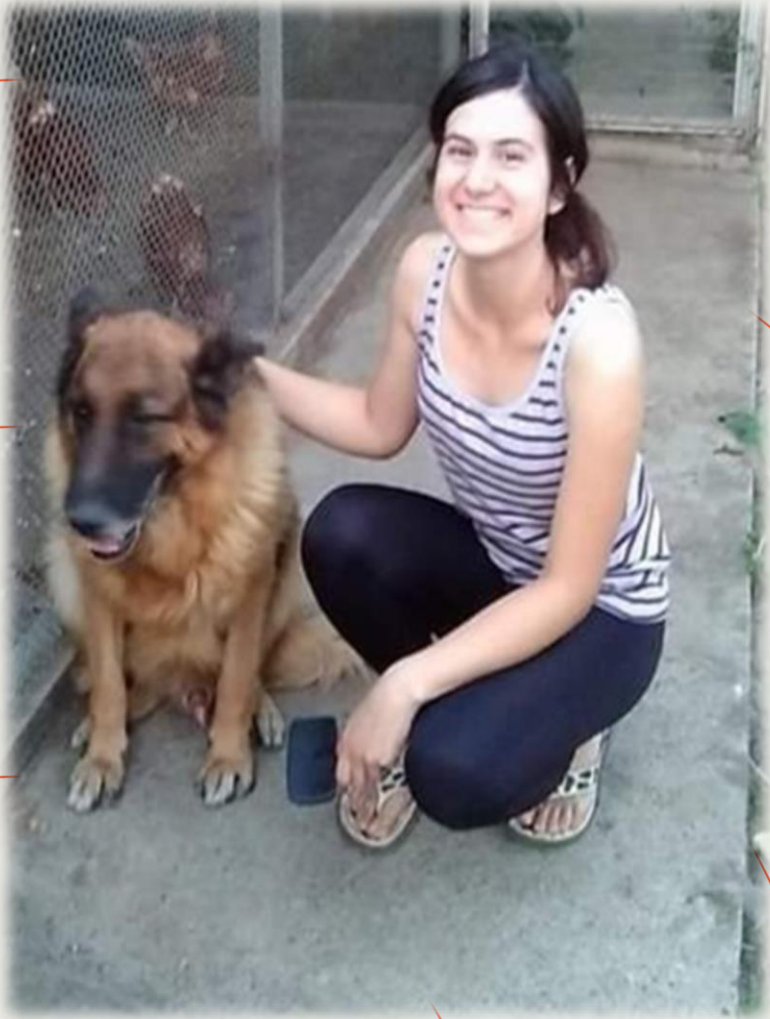


кампания за осиновяване  
на бездомни животни





## V. Successful stories



*A total of 4 653 adopted dogs in 2022,  
found their home and family.*





## Conclusions:

*For free-roaming dog population management programs to be successful, human behavior modification is necessary, as dog ecology is linked to human behavior.*

*The unification of joint efforts, of interested institutions, NGOs and citizens is the "way" to achieve success in terms of controlling the population of free-roaming dogs.*

*The Bulgarian Food Safety Agency continues to work to implement the current legislation in order to control the population of free-roaming animals, protect the health of people and animals, and humane treatment of them.*



# Thank you **for** your attention!

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