

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

Country Report on national situation 2021- 2022

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



I. Understanding country situation



I. Understanding country situation

Public health (One Health) issues:

- **Bite injuries (aggressive dogs)** (leash law for owned dogs)
- **Zoonoses**
- **Faecal pollution** (law obligation for feces collection for owned dogs)
- **Issues arising from shelters**
 - Waste and wastewater management*
 - Workers health and safety*
 - Antibiotic resistance*

Safety issues:

- **Attacks to humans and other animals**
- **Traffic accidents**
- **Attacks to livestock** (state compensation)





I. Understanding country situation

Key actions for dog population control:

SDPMP's are implemented on a local-municipal level

1. Financial problems: **Inadequate municipal revenue sources**

2. Importance of evaluation of DPMP's effectiveness => Legislation reform

3. Lack of training programs for personnel responsible for DM

- Approaching and restraining aggressive dogs
- Handling dog packs
- Shelter dogs handling



I. Understanding country situation

Key actions for dog population control:

➤ Identified sources of stray dogs (*compliance with 7.7.11*):

Lost + Abandoned + Born Stray

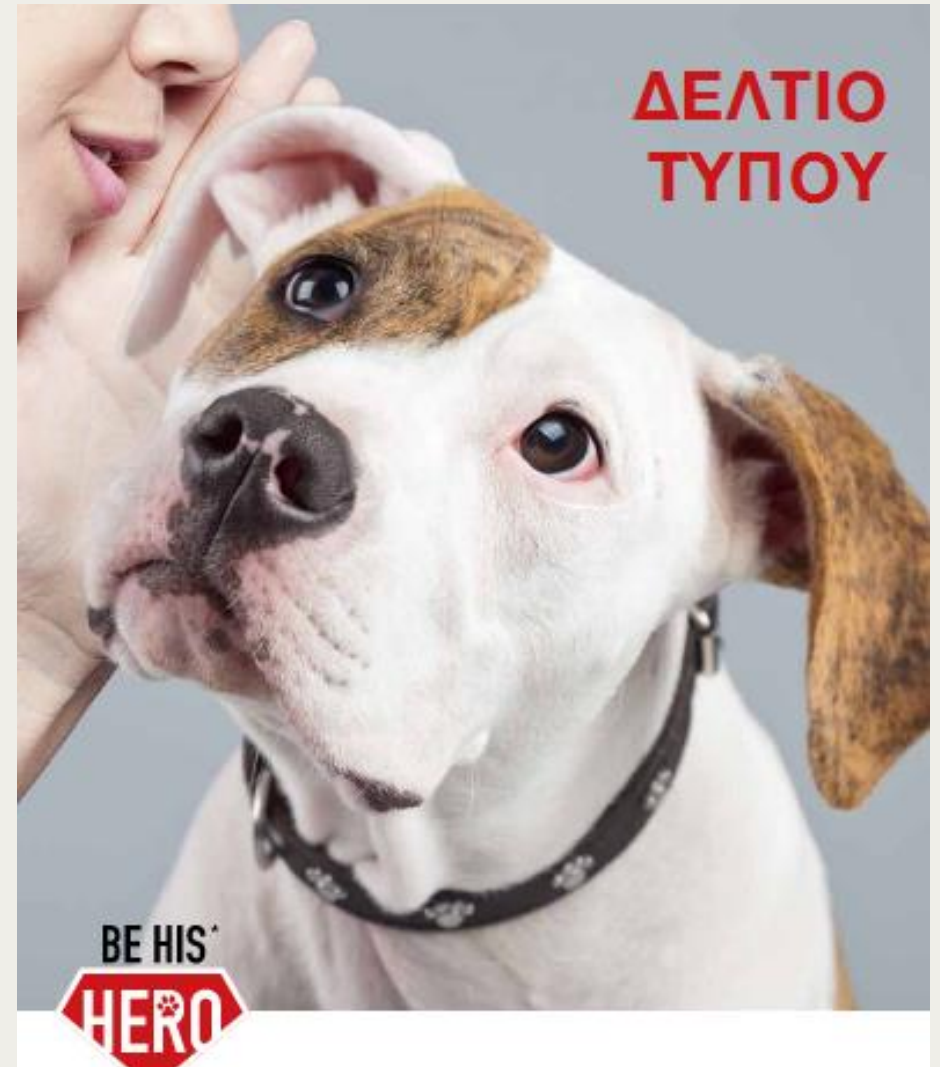
intentional abandonment of a dog by its owner
+
unwanted pregnancies of owned female dogs

Unneutered abandoned dogs
(breeders + hunters + livestock guardian dogs)

➤ Illegal breeding + illegal trade

Establishment of responsible dog ownership

+
Pet animals welfare assurance





I. Understanding country situation after 4830/2021

**Government provided increased funding
+
New Legislative Framework**



II. Control measures



II. Control measures

Funding increase

+

Multi-level monitoring

+

Competence

+

**In-depth involvement of Animal Welfare Associations
and Animal Protection Organizations in SDPM**



I. Control measures funding increase

NEW FINANCIAL TOOL “ARGOS”

IMPLEMENTATION OF DPMPs → **5,000,000** EUROS

ESTABLISHMENT OF SHELTER FACILITIES → **40,000,000** EUROS

SHELTER AND VETERINARY CLINIC EQUIPMENT

VACCINES AND MEDICINES



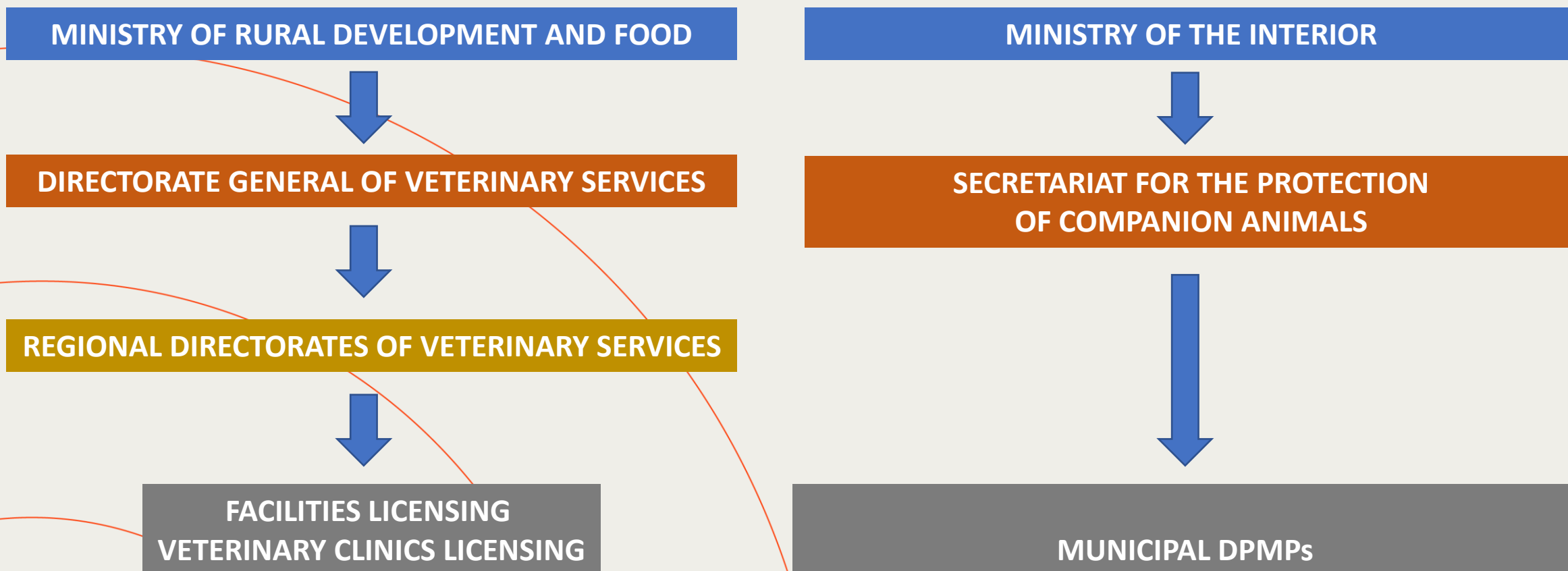
I. Control measures multi-level monitoring

New legislation framework (national law 4830/2021)*





I. Control Measures competence





II. Control measures

Centralized Database Structure

National companion animal registry

Identification + Registration + Monitoring Database

Animal Welfare Associations + Animal Protection Organizations record

Shelters record

Breeders record

E-Platform for the promotion of adoptions

Blood Donation record

Passport depository

Offenders Record

Electronic health booklet



II. Control measures

Centralized digital extended information system** (*users: data entry*)

1. National companion animal registry (online platform) includes:

- ✓ Identification (radio frequency identification in accordance with *ISO11784, ISO11785***) + registration + monitoring data (*veterinarians*)
- ✓ **Animal Welfare Associations and Animal Protection Organizations record*** (non-profit and active in Greece or other EU countries)
- ✓ **Shelters record*** (municipal or inter-municipal shelters, shelters of Animal Welfare Associations or Animal Protection Organizations, shelters of individuals): competent authority for the license issuance is regional Veterinary Authority
- ✓ **Breeders record***
- ✓ E-Platform for the promotion of adoptions (*municipal officials, Animal Welfare Associations, Animal Protection Organizations, shelters*)
- ✓ **Blood Donation record (owned dogs available for blood donation) (*veterinarians*)**
- ✓ **Passport depository (distribution from *Pan-Hellenic Veterinary Association*: passport numbers – certified veterinarians: license to practice by THE HELLENIC GEOTECHNICAL CHAMBER)**

(for stray dogs the passport is issued in the name of the municipal representative or the name of the individual hoster or the name of the representative of the Animal Welfare Associations or the Animal Protection Organization is completed)

2. Offenders Record (observed by Athens Prosecutor's Office)

3. Electronic health booklet (vaccinations, sterilization, serological test for Leishmania, antiparasitic treatments, surgeries etc.)

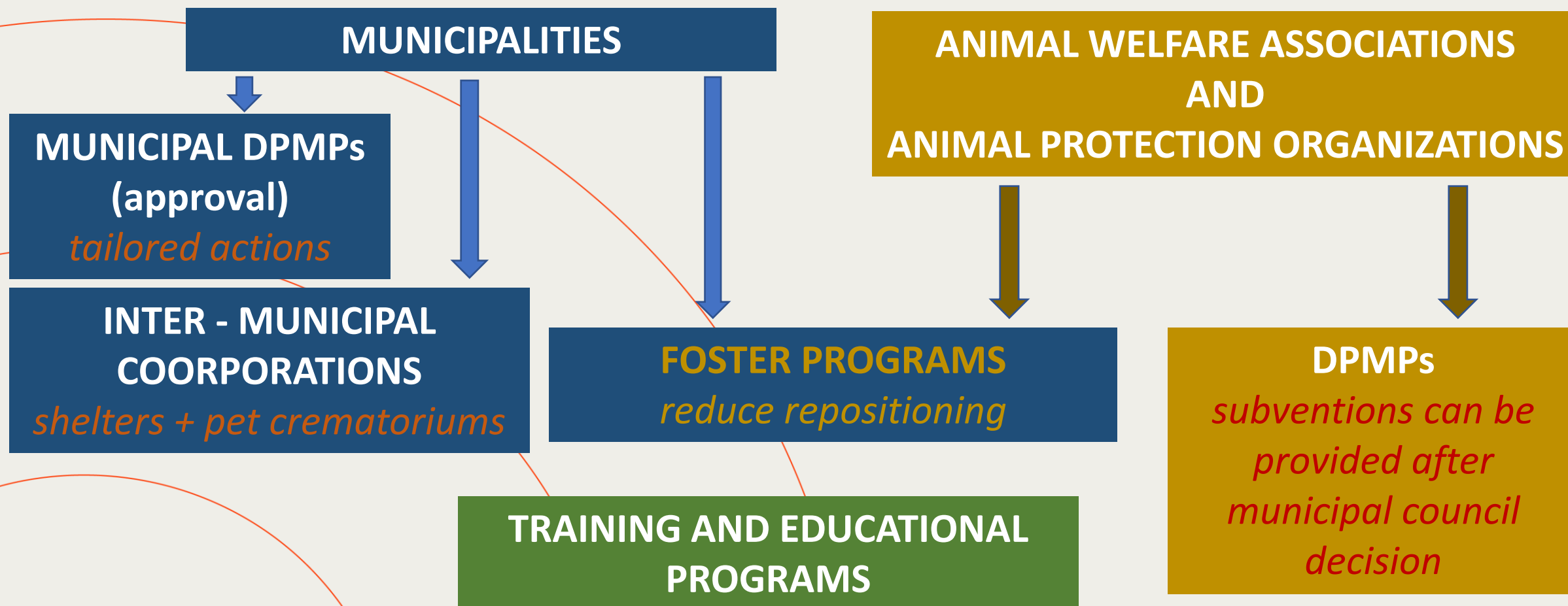
* (*Animal Welfare Associations, Animal Protection Organizations, Shelters and Breeders request and the Department of the Protection of Companion Animals proceeds to registration approval*)

***compliance with 7.7.11*

Interoperability between sub-systems



II. Control measures for stray dogs



II. Control measures for stray dogs

Requirements for the approval DPMP's from the Secretariat for the Protection of Companion Animals

1. **Establishment of municipal committee (5 members): Competence = monitoring and self-evaluation of DPMP**

2. **Every DPMP should at least include the following actions:**

- **Catch**
- **Identification and registration**
- **Veterinary care (vaccination and serological screening for Leishmania included)**
- **Surgical sterilization**
- **Fostering or Adoption: if not then return to repositioning area**



3. **Establishment of scientific committee (3 members): Competence = decision-making for danger DM Euthanasia* (intravenous barbiturates) is legally permitted in cases of: i) serious or incurable disease ii) risk of disease transmission to humans**

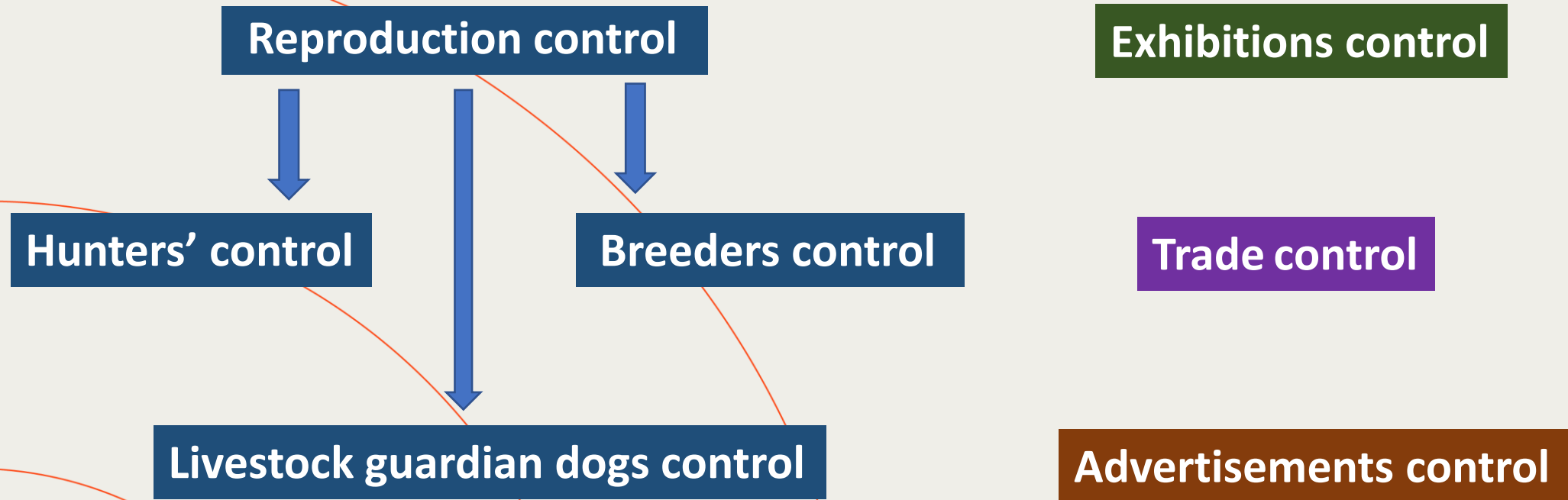
Euthanasia of healthy stray dogs is not legally permitted

4. **Definition of repositioning areas: management of dog population density on local level + access to food and water (repositioning close to hospitals, schools, athletic facilities, national roads and expressways, airports, railway stations, ship boarding and ship disembarkation areas, archaeological places, slaughterhouses, waste collection facilities, the facilities of the Central Market and Fishery Organizations and facilities of the Hellenic Arm Forces is forbidden)**

*** compliance with 7.7.27**



II. Control measures for owned dogs





II. Control measures for owned dogs

✓ **Reproduction control**

- **Neutering** (in 6 months from animal's adoption when dog is more than 1 year old)
- **If not neutering => DNA sample** (Laboratory of DNA analysis and DNA digital data storage - Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens)
- **Dog owners have the right to reproduce their dog only once in animal's lifetime**

Female dogs is forbidden to be reproduced before the second estrus and nine months before the last parturition

Reproduction after the ninth year is forbidden

Reproduction of companion animals with anatomical and physiological characteristics or behavioral characteristics that may have a bad impact, depending on the species and the race of the companion animal, in the health and welfare of the female ancestor or in the health and welfare of the newborns (e.g. high mortality rates of congenital abnormalities or acquired disorders) is not permitted

✓ **Dog separation cost**

1. **300 Euros fine (when dog management passes to the municipality)**
2. **Deprivation of the right of pet animal adoption for 3 years**

- ✓ **Low-income households and persons with disabilities: free veterinary care (vaccination + surgical sterilization included)**



II. Control measures for owned dogs

✓ **Breeders control (+ Prevention of illegal trade and trafficking)**

Reproduction of breeding dogs more than 6 times in a lifetime is forbidden

Breeding for non-commercial and non-profit purposes is permitted for the maintenance of dog races but **reproduction permission** is demanded. Two requirements for reproduction permission:

1. Confirmation from the kennel club of Greece
2. Registration of the breeder (**digital breeders record**)

Breeding for non-commercial and non-profit purposes limitation:

- reproduction of more than 2 female dogs is forbidden
- reproduction of a female dog more than once per year is forbidden

✓ **Hunters' control (+ Prevention of illegal trade and trafficking)**

- Hunting license removal for 2 years for use of unregistered dogs and for use of unneutered dogs or dogs that are not registered in the DNA-storage database
- Permanent hunting license removal for abandoning dog or puppies

✓ **Livestock guardian dogs control:** free veterinary care (vaccination + surgical sterilization included)



II. Control measures

✓ Exhibitions control

- Exhibitions for commercial purposes in outdoor markets are forbidden
- Exhibitions of mutilated animals are forbidden
- **Exhibition of cats and dogs in pet shops is forbidden**

✓ Trade control

- Puppies trade before the 12th week of life is forbidden.
- **Online cats and dogs trade is permitted only by e-shops that belong to legally operating breeding businesses**

✓ Advertisements control

- Advertisements for cats and dogs trade are permitted only by legally operating breeding businesses
- **Ads for mating is forbidden**
- Adoption advertisements are permitted only when the hyperlink of the E-Platform for the promotion of adoptions is added
- Every advertisement must be followed by the text:

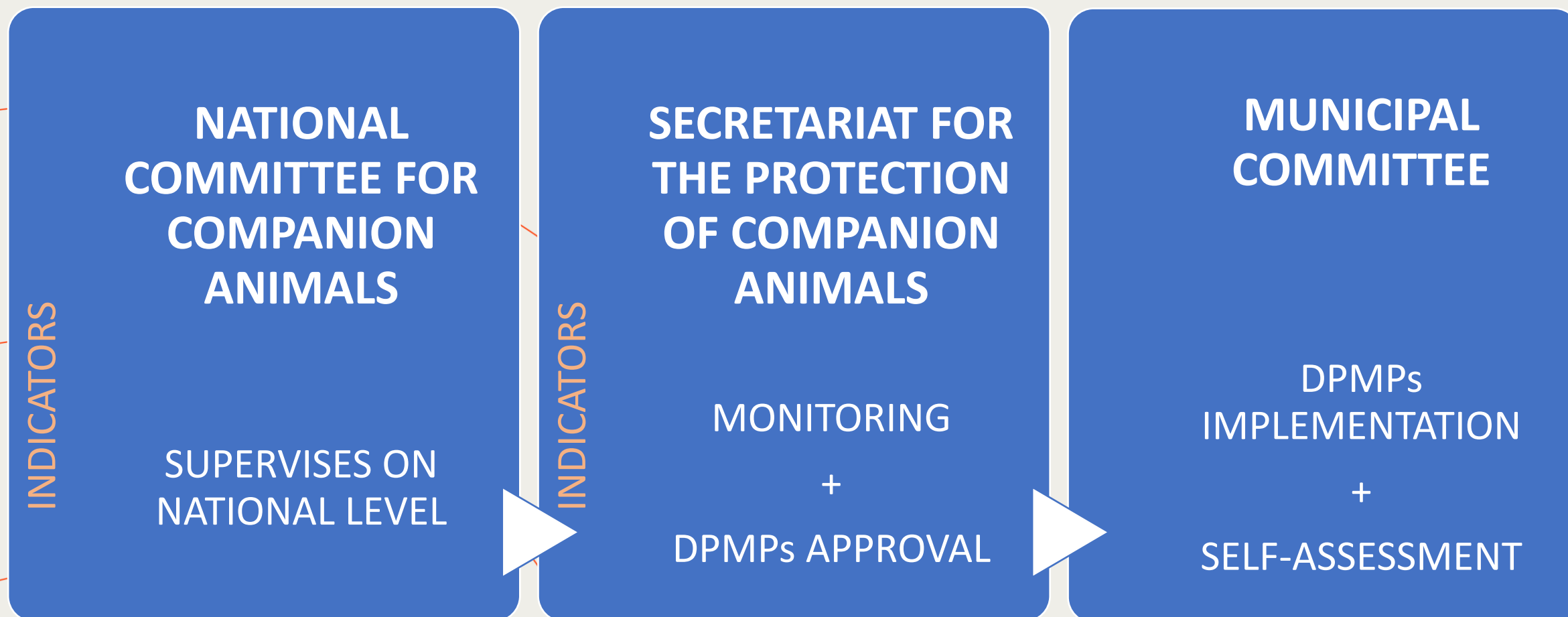
“An animal is not a toy. You must consider that the adoption of an animal is a decision that will change your life. As a pet owner you have legal obligation to assure that you provide and promote your pet’s health and welfare. Otherwise, you contact crime punished by the law”



III. Monitoring and evaluation



III. Monitoring and evaluation (multi-level)



Municipalities will be able to submit their DPMPs for approval by the Special Secretariat for the protection of Animals through the new centralized digital extended information system



IV. Rabies dimension

IV. Rabies

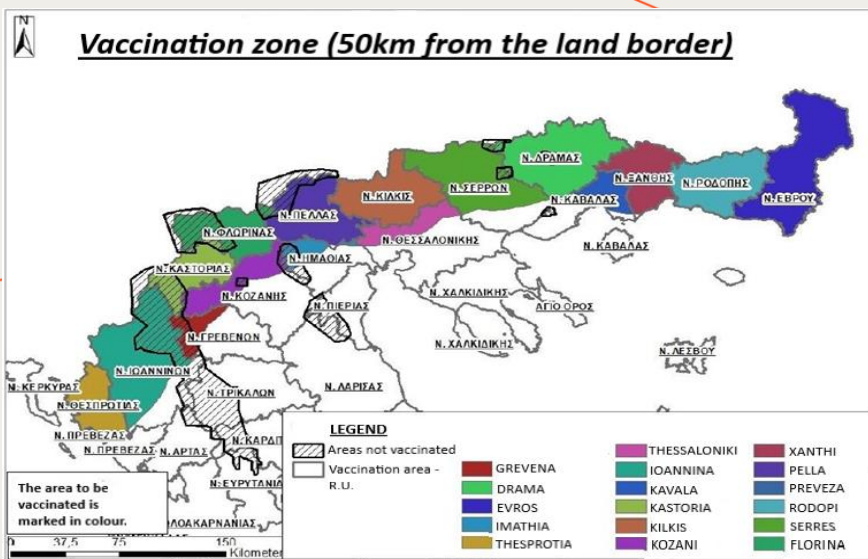
Rabies epidemiological situation

- Greece is free of dog rabies
- *The competent authority for the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents is the Directorate General of Veterinary Services - Ministry of Rural Development and Food*
- First case in 2012 after almost 25 years (48 animals between 2012 – 2014)
- Last year of occurrence of Rabies in domestic animals : 2014
[two (2) dogs, Larissa and Thessaloniki Regional Units(Units)]
- Last year of occurrence of Rabies in humans : 1970
1 Man
- Last year of occurrence of Rabies in wildlife : 2014
[eight (8) Red foxes, Kilkis, Thessaloniki, Larisa, Trikala and Pella RUs]



IV. Rabies dimension

Oral rabies vaccination



source: Directorate of Animal Health, Ministry of Rural Development and Food

Year*	Campaign carried out		Spring campaign		Autumn campaign	
	YES	NO	Start Date	End Date	Start Date	End Date
2012	-	X	-	-	-	-
2013	X	-	-	-	11/10/2013	17/12/2013
2014	X	-	-	-	10/11/2014	13/01/2015
2015	X	-	-	-	04/11/2015	22/12/2015
2016	X	-	01/04/2016	13/05/2016	21/10/2016	19/11/2016
2017	X	-	02/04/2017	20/05/2017	10/10/2017	05/11/2017
2018	X	-	02/04/2018	26/04/2018	03/10/2018	07/11/2018
2019	X	-	03/04/2019	11/05/2019	10/10/2019	09/11/2019
2020	X	-	12/05/2020	07/06/2020	2/10/2020	15/10/2020
2021		X	-	-	-	-
2022	X		07/04/2022	15/04/2022	11/10/2022	20/10/2022
2023	X		25/05/2023	08/06/2023	planned	planned



V. Country roadmap Key Actions



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Funding + New legislation framework

Public Administration

- ✓ National Committee
- ✓ Secretariat for the Protection of Companion Animals – Ministry of the Interior
- ✓ Centralized digital extended information system
- ✓ Multi-level monitoring of DPMPs

Inter-municipal corporations development

In-depth involvement of Animal Welfare Associations and Animal Protection Organizations in stray DPM



Table	Control Program of Greek Municipalities for <u>2017</u> (according to data known to Ministry of Rural Development and Food)	
Microchip		25.744 (22.636 dogs and 3.108 cats)
Adopted		5.394 (5.189 dogs and 205 cats)
Dewormed		-
Sterilized		23.856 (16.273 dogs and 7.583 cats)
Vaccinated against rabies		26.562 (22818 dogs and 3744 cats)

Source: Database of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food (16/05/2018)



NUMBER OF REGISTERED DOGS	
OWNED	STRAY
643,352	133,896
<i>Data source: Digital Database - Ministry of Rural Development and Food</i>	

STRAY DPMPs DATA (YEAR 2021)	
CATCHED + IDENTIFIED + REGISTERED	18208
VACCINATED	16795
NEUTERED (SURGICAL STERILIZATION)	10261
ANTIPARASITIC TREATMENT	18658
TEMPORARY HOSPITALITY IN DOG HOUSING FACILITIES	7546
TEMPORARY HOSPITALITY IN HOUSES	1887
ADOPTED	5623
RETURN TO REPOSITIONING AREAS	9926
POSITIVE TO SEROLOGICAL SCREENING FOR LEISMANIA	1250
<i>Data source: Ministry of the Interior – Department of the Protection of Companion Animals</i>	



V. Successful stories



V. Successful stories (3)

❖ Foster programs:

Large voluntary participation in foster programs

❖ Department of the Protection of Companion Animals - Special Secretariat for the protection of Animals – Ministry of the Interior:

The specification of legislation requirements almost completed

Guide for municipalities: Guide for the drafting of SDPMPs action plans will be shared to municipalities



Thank you

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