



# Role of the Regional Animal Welfare Centre in DPM

Alex Hammond-Seaman

# Background

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- ❖ Western Balkan Veterinary Network (wbvn.net) – was established in 2008 as a unique platform for the advancement of animal welfare in the Western Balkan region;
- ❖ WBVN relied on partners working together, and was set up by the RSPCA and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Skopje, North Macedonia.
- ❖ The network combined the research capabilities of seven major universities in the Western Balkans and Turkey with leading animal welfare research centres in western Europe.
- ❖ One of the network's core was to initiate and develop research in the field of animal welfare.



# WBVN

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The WBVN was established primarily to encourage and develop best practice in animal welfare amongst veterinary professionals.

Promote collaboration a wide range of stakeholder organizations to achieve this goal.



**Western Balkans  
Veterinary Network**  
for Animal Welfare

# WBVN participating institutions

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## Albania

*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
Agricultural University of Tirana*

## Bosnia-Herzegovina

*Veterinary Office of Bosnia and  
Herzegovina, Ministry of Foreign  
Trade and Economic Relations*

*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Sarajevo*

## Croatia

*Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Rural Development,  
Veterinary Directorate*

*Croatian Veterinary Institute*

*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Zagreb*

*PIK Vrbovec d.d.*

## Kosovo\*

*Kosovo Veterinary and Food  
Agency*

*Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary  
Studies, University of Prishtina*

## Republic of North Macedonia

*Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Water Management*

*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – Skopje  
Agraria Klanica, Veles.*

## Montenegro

*Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Water Management*

*Veterinary Directorate, Government  
of the Republic of Montenegro*

## Serbia

*Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Water Management*

*Faculty of Agriculture, University  
of Belgrade*

*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
University of Belgrade*

## United Kingdom

*Animal Welfare Training,  
University of Bristol*

*RSPCA International*

# Activities

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WBVN delivered a large programme of training and education in the Western Balkans and Turkey, including:

- professional training on the welfare of animals in the food chain
- research animal seminars to share EU regulations
- alternative methods in veterinary education
- Welfare Outcome Assessment (WOA) – assessing farm animals for their health, physical condition and behaviour
- dog catching and handling workshops
- workshops on the welfare of poultry farming, from production and processing to slaughter,
- farm and abattoir welfare assessment.



**Western Balkans  
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# Outcomes

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- ❧ 200+ trained professionals
- ❧ Series of workshops in collaboration with the competent authorities run in North Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Turkey
- ❧ Development of guidelines and standards for producers and industry operators
- ❧ Recognition by the EU Commission and links established for inclusion of WBVN members into European research projects



**Western Balkans  
Veterinary Network**  
for Animal Welfare

# Regional animal welfare centre

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Regional Animal Welfare Centre was established in 2012 and was hosted by the Croatian Veterinary Institute – [www.RAWC.eu](http://www.RAWC.eu)

The main reason was to ensure long term sustainability for RAWC under a more formal umbrella.

In 2022 RAWC officially registered as an association with the main purpose of providing scientific and technical support to the stakeholders in the region.

# Specific tasks

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- ❖ To build structures and processes to actively share knowledge and expertise related to the implementation of EU legislation and international standards such as WOAHA.
- ❖ To conduct a screening and elaborate a clear map of the current situation and the priorities in the region.
- ❖ To facilitate consistent implementation and enforcement of EU legislation and international standards through the provision of technical and scientific support.
- ❖ To develop knowledge strategies to overcome knowledge gaps and bottlenecks and to assist with implementation of legislation.
- ❖ To increase stakeholders' awareness, engagement and co-operation in addressing animal welfare issues at the regional level
- ❖ To develop collaboration with the key institutions working in animal welfare at the regional, European and global level.



Currently the main priorities for 2023-2024 are:

Developing technical capacities in the region (eg. Network of DPM managers) to support the implementation of the WOAH 7.7

Scientific collaboration and exchange (2nd RAWC planned for 2024)

Projects (develop a welfare of working equids pilot)

Host regional events on specific priority topics

# RAWC

We're proud to be the first animal welfare centre with the regional character in the Balkans.

Regional Animal Welfare Centre (RAWC), and the structure of the RAWC has been agreed at the 1<sup>st</sup> steering meeting held in Zagreb on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Overall strategy of RAWC is to bridge over the gap between Academia, Policy makers and all major stakeholders in the region and to help them in the implementation of regional and international best practices in the field of Animal Welfare.

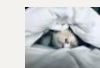


## Upcoming Conference!

We would like to inform you that we reached a decision to hold a second Scientific Conference in the autumn of 2024. Although our first conference was at the end and held online (due to COVID-19 situation) it was a great story and we want to build on it. If you would like to check topics and abstracts from the last conference you can find it [here](#).

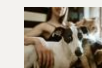
[MORE INFO](#)

## WHAT WE DO?



### TRAINING OF EXPERTS

Training of animal welfare experts to enhance knowledge level in the region on the recognized topics.



### NETWORKING

Collaboration with the policy makers, academics and industry to enhance the levels of animal welfare.



### PROJECTS

Development and implementation of regional and international projects in line with our strategy.



### REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Conferences are a great way to bring people together and often lead to new or unexpected opportunities.



# Regional events:



## Four large regional workshops:

- Strategic development of Animal Welfare in the Western Balkan Region (2014)
- Vision for the future of Animal welfare in the Balkans (2015)
- Regional approach to the implementation and enforcement of animal Regulation 1099/2009 (2017)


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### NEWS

#### Held 2nd Regional Animal Welfare Experts meeting


by ADMIN on May 20, 2015 - 11:08 am

Regional Animal Welfare Centre in cooperation with Animal Welfare of the Croatian Veterinary Institute (CVI) and Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) organised a two day meeting "Vision for the future of Animal welfare in the Balkans". Meeting was held on on 6th to 7th of May 2015, in Terme Tuhej, Croatia.



*Mihanović Castle, Terme Tuhej*

The meeting was organised as a series of panel sessions on four main topics. For each thematic block we will ask the speakers to prepare their presentations according to the five set questions, which will be sent out in due course. The aim of the meeting was to gather information from many sectors working in animal welfare and to take into account the multifaceted and multidisciplinary aspects of animal welfare to fully understand and appreciate the needs and challenges ahead of RAWC in the future. There were over 50 participants, with a very wide range of background (Policy makers, Academia, Scientists, Industry, NGO's). Complete list of all participants you can find [HERE](#).



*Meeting room was full till the end – photo taken during last session.*

**Presentations are available for download in PDF's as follows:**

Terence Cassidy – 40 years of EU animal welfare legislation – what lessons have been learned about its implementation?

Paolo Dalla Vitta – Relevance of animal welfare centre in Balkans cross linked with EU strategy and Teramo as OIE collaborative centre

Aleksandra Hammond Seaman & Tomislav Mikuš – From idea, thru project to reality

Petya Petkova & Vlatko Bleski – Mission, objectives and priority themes proposed of RAWC

**Implementation and enforcement of legislation**

SEARCH

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CONTACT INFO

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RECENT POSTS

One Welfare  
Feb 17, 2017

Workshop announcement: Regional approach to the implementation and enforcement of Reg. (EC) 1099/2009  
Jan 26, 2017

Steering Committee meeting in Skopje  
Nov 10, 2016

# 2022 RAWC Regional annual meeting

WOAH

DG SANTE

EFSA

FAO

IZSAM Teramo

40 participants from 9  
countries



# 1st RAWC Scientific Conference – 2019 Better Science for Better Animal Welfare

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Preparation started in November 2019

Delayed twice due to COVID, held as online event in June 2021.

2nd conference planned for October 2024 in Cavtat/Dubrovnik.



*animals*

an Open Access Journal by MDPI





# Be His Hero campaign



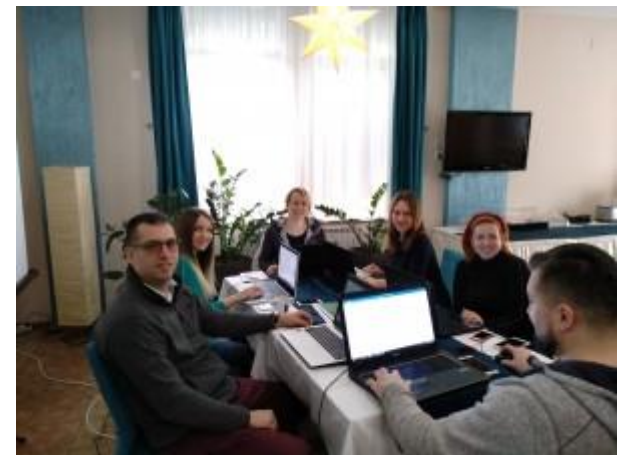
- ☞ Lunched in 8 Countries of the region (Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo\*, Bulgaria, Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro);
- ☞ RAWC collaborated with OIE on translation, printing and distribution of the materials.



# 1st Training DPM Trainers in Skopje - 2018



- Trainees (5) represented different institutions from the region with different, but complementary backgrounds, all with the plan for further development of the regional DPM program which we hope to start implementing during 2018.



## Workshop at the OIE 3rd Stray dog Workshop for Balkan countries - 2018



- ❖ RAWC received an invitation from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to hold a workshop 3rd Stray dog Workshop for Balkan countries, in Belgrade.
- ❖ All our five trainers held a combined two hour workshop for participants at the OIE Regional Workshop on the topic on how to establish Dog population counting survey and setting indicators for dog population management.





# 2<sup>nd</sup> Training of DPM managers (TALEA) –Skopje 2022



12 New trainees from 4 countries.





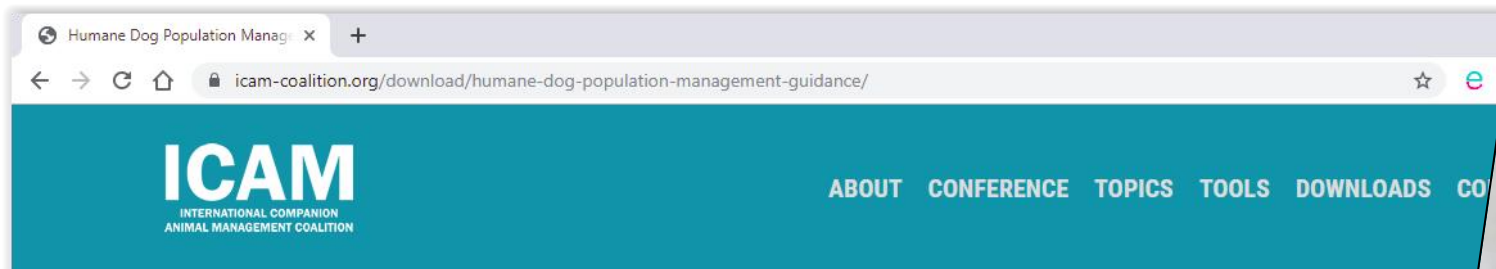
# DPM Network

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Total 17 experts from 7 Countries thus far. Countries involved in these training events were – Bosnia (1 person), Croatia (2), Serbia (3), Slovenia (1), North Macedonia (5), Kosovo\* (3) and , Montenegro (2). Our plan is to further build on this network of experts this year with the 3<sup>rd</sup> training in Serbia.



# Download from [www.icam-coalition.org](http://www.icam-coalition.org)

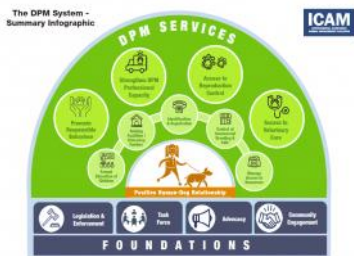


ICAM > Downloads > Top downloads > Humane Dog Population Management

## Humane Dog Population Management 2019 Update



Whether implementing DPM at a local level or providing support through national/regional level activity, ICAM's (2019) Humane Dog Population Management guide has advice for anyone with the goal of creating positive human-dog relationships.



Click to download full size DPM system infographic



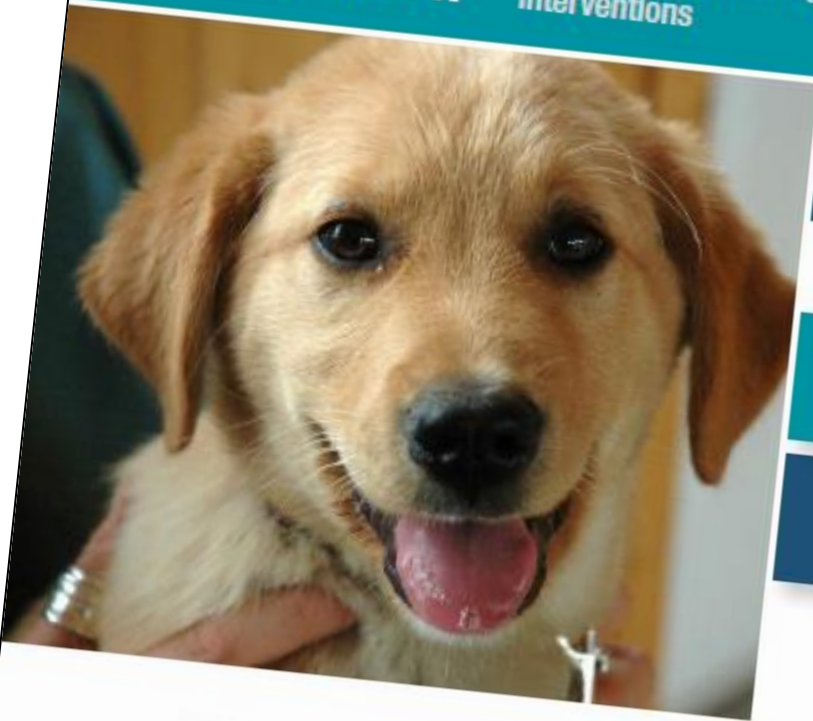


# ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?



# ICAM COALITION

## A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Dog Population Management Interventions



ICAM

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### Talea street survey app

The Talea user guide should be your friend and guide through working with Talea. But if you find it is lacking in any way, or you have a question that is not answered in the user guide, please email us at [talea@icam-coalition.org](mailto:talea@icam-coalition.org). Your feedback is extremely valuable to us, so don't be shy!

Please follow this [link to our sign-up page](#) which will automatically create your Talea project – section 2.1 in the user guide shows you how this first step works, including the follow-up email you will receive allowing you to create your password.

#### An introduction to Talea

Street surveys of roaming dogs and cats can be a quick way to gather data on their density, welfare and reproductive activity; and many other indicators besides. But if making sure you stay on the correct survey route, recording the same information about each animal and keeping your data safe is a challenge – then Talea is your solution. Please note, Talea app is for Android devices only.

Talea is a street survey tool comprised of 2 parts:

1. Talea web is where you design your survey and access your data
2. Talea app is the mobile phone application that you use to record all the animals you see on your survey

Talea is designed to be simple:

- Recording sightings of animals and any number of characteristics relating to each animal.
- Using labelled icons in the app to minimise observer time when recording sightings with characteristics selected with a single tap.
- A background map supports navigation, including colour changes to indicate when observers have strayed 'off route', and the option to download map tiles so you can survey offline.

Talea is designed to be flexible:

- Working in Talea web, you can select a template from the library allowing for an 'off the shelf' survey or you can amend or create your own template.
- Although the working language for Talea web is English, you can select the Talea app language to suit individual observers.
- Sightings can be recorded with the GPS location of the observer at the time of recording or the observer can indicate on the map with a 'dropped pin' the exact position of the animal when it was seen.
- Observers can follow a survey route or work within a polygon that delimits the area to be surveyed.

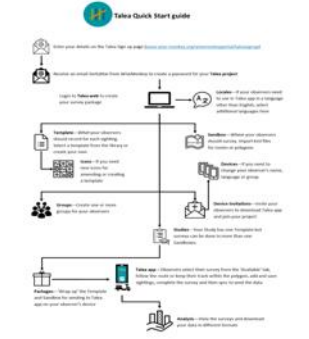
This solution was developed in partnership with Wise Monkey Solutions, a US-based organisation with the mission to create software, systems, and technology to support NGO that strive for the sustainable health of people, animals, and the environment.

[Click here to access the user guide](#) for Talea web and Talea app

[Click here to access ICAM's guide to monitoring and evaluation 'Are we making a difference?'](#) go to the chapter on 'Street surveys' to learn more about this method of measuring indicators.



[Click to open quick start guide as pdf](#)



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- [ICAM condemns inhumane culling of free-roaming dogs in Morocco 16th June 2022](#)
- [Global veterinary body gives support for humane DPM 16th June 2022](#)
- [ICAM stands in solidarity with Ukrainian people and animals 16th June 2022](#)

#### Contact us

E-Mail: [info@icam-coalition.org](mailto:info@icam-coalition.org)

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# ICAM e learning portal

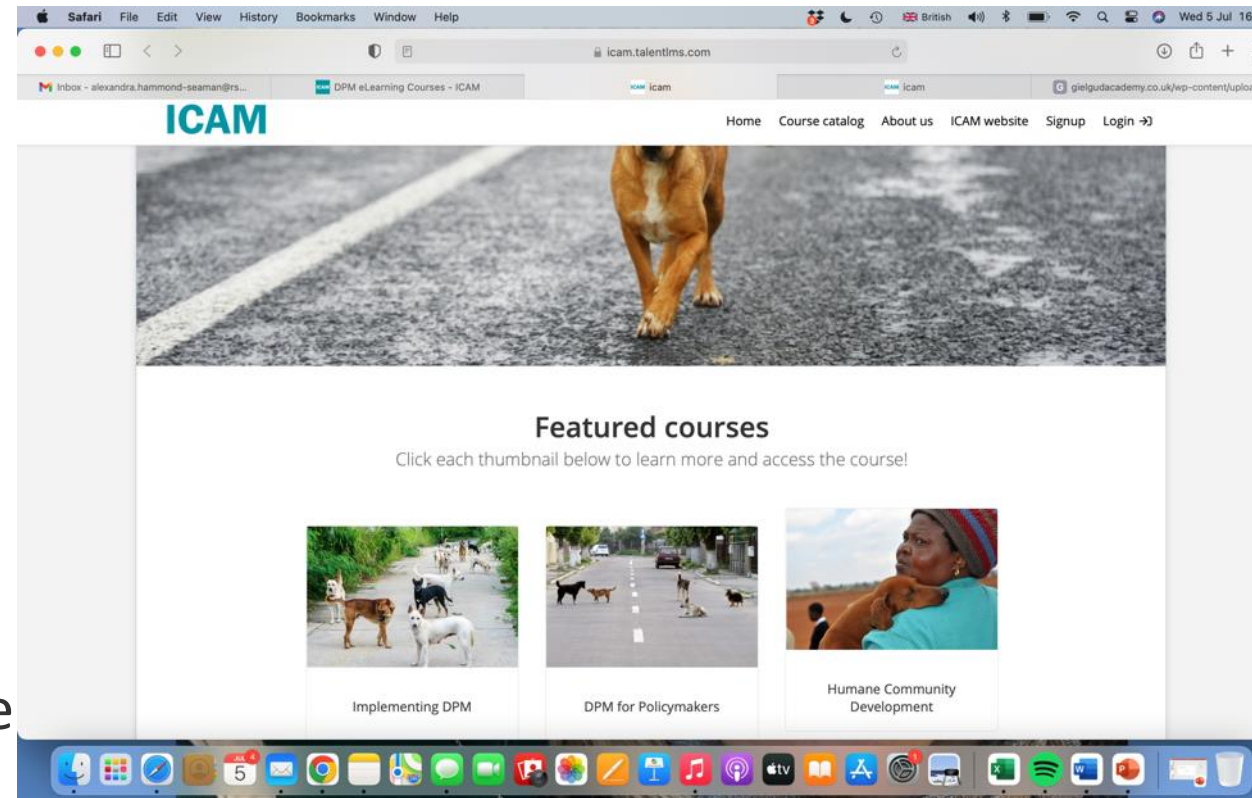
## <https://icam.talentlms.com>

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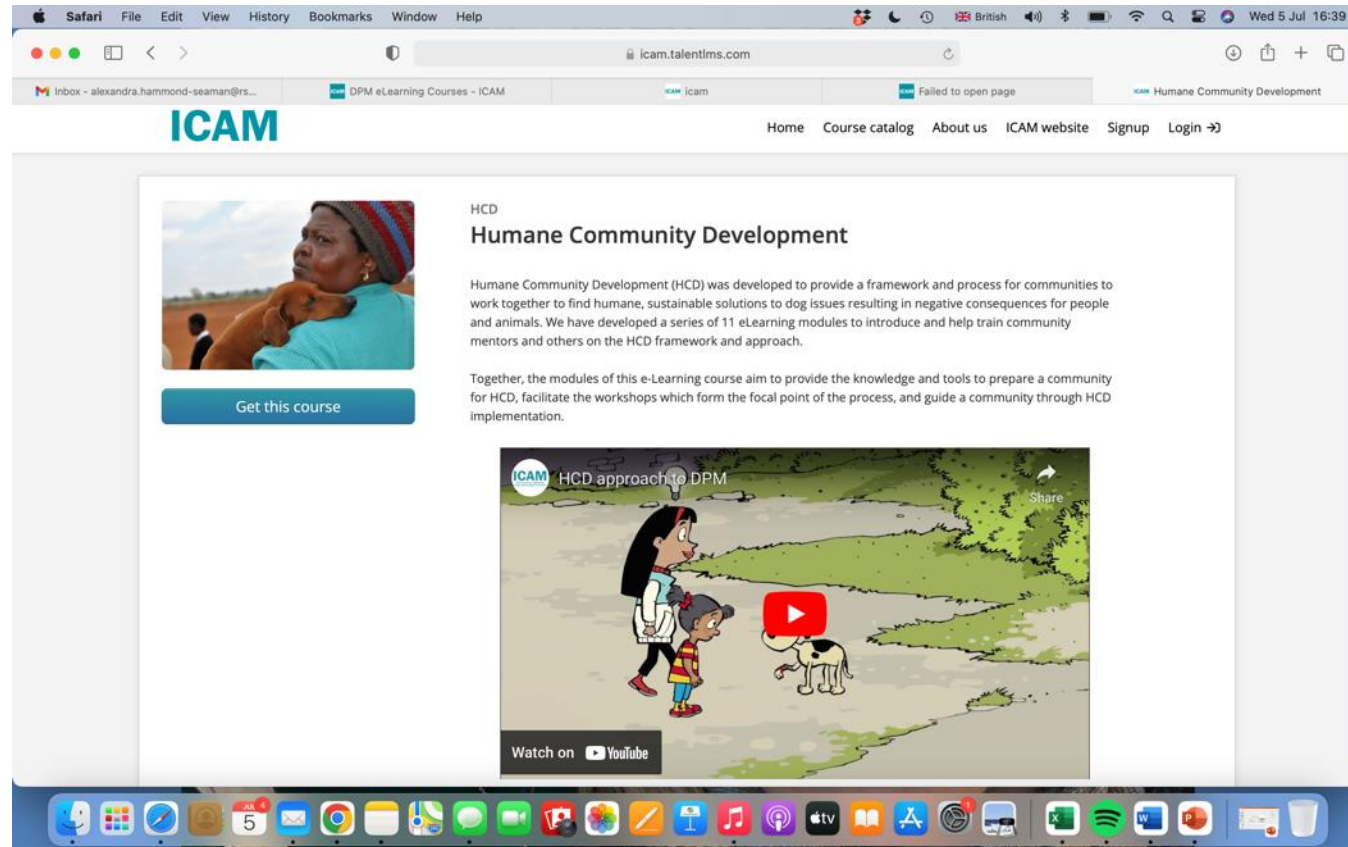
The two new courses are designed to meet the differing needs of DPM practitioners and policymakers:

**1. Implementing DPM** is an in-depth, seven-unit course for learners involved in planning, implementing, monitoring or evaluating dog population management.

**2. DPM for policymakers** is a shorter three-unit course designed for learners who are responsible for developing or refining policy relating to dog population management.



# Human community development course



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ICAM website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `icam.talentms.com`. The website's navigation menu includes links for Home, Course catalog, About us, ICAM website, Signup, and Login. The main content area features a section for the Humane Community Development (HCD) course. On the left, there is a photograph of a woman holding a dog, with a blue button below it that says "Get this course". To the right of the photo, the text reads: "HCD Humane Community Development Humane Community Development (HCD) was developed to provide a framework and process for communities to work together to find humane, sustainable solutions to dog issues resulting in negative consequences for people and animals. We have developed a series of 11 eLearning modules to introduce and help train community mentors and others on the HCD framework and approach. Together, the modules of this e-Learning course aim to provide the knowledge and tools to prepare a community for HCD, facilitate the workshops which form the focal point of the process, and guide a community through HCD implementation." Below this text is a video player with a red play button and the text "Watch on YouTube". The video player also includes a "Share" icon and the text "ICAM HCD approach to DPM". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows the date and time as "Wed 5 Jul 16:39".



# What we are good at:

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- ☞ Collaboration
- ☞ Organisation
- ☞ Knowledge transfer
- ☞ Best practice “from region to the region”
- ☞ Enthusiasm and commitment



And now, let's see what the future  
will bring us! 😊



Thank you!