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for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology,  
Food Safety and Animal Welfare

# How to design a framework that incorporates all actors??

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**Paolo Dalla Villa**

[p.dallavilla@izs.it](mailto:p.dallavilla@izs.it)

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# Repetita iuvant!!!





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# The OIE standards:

## TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE

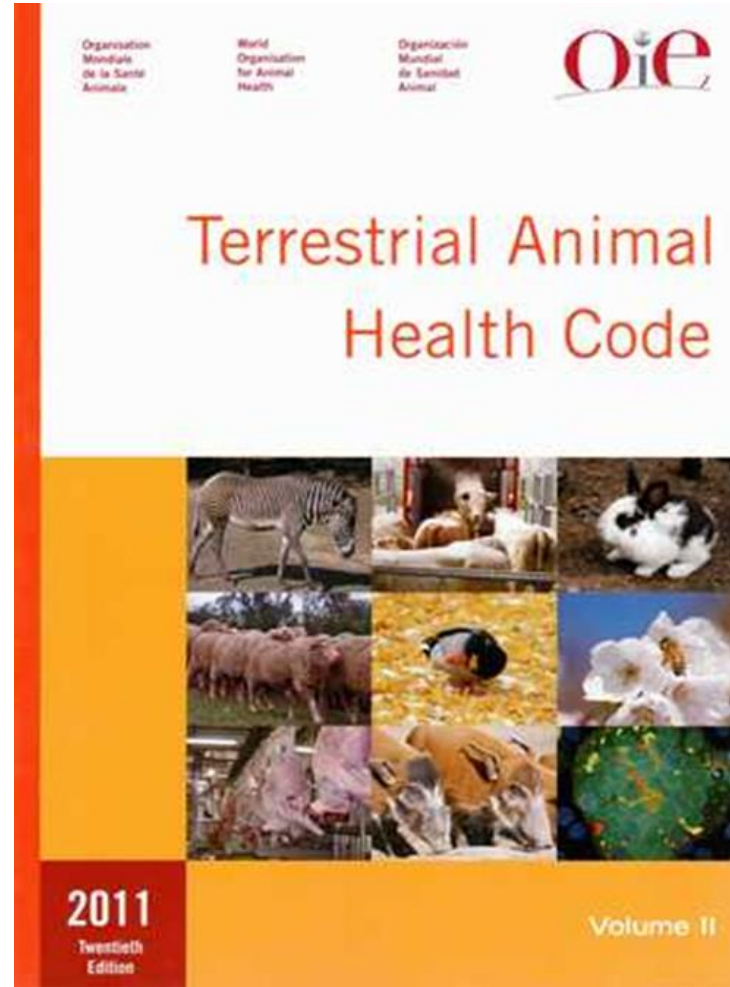
Chapter 7.7:

Stray dog population control

### Concepts:

- Protect Human health
- Protect animal health
- Respect the Animal welfare
- Protect Environment

<http://rpawe.oie.int>





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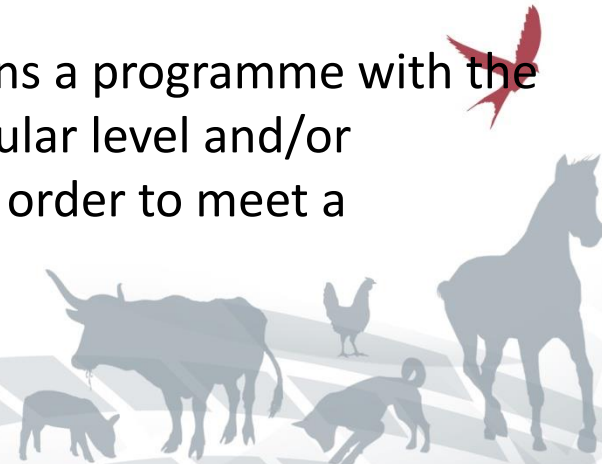
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# Definitions (OIE)

**Stray dog:** means any dog not under direct control or not prevented from roaming.

Types of stray dog:

- free roaming **owned dog** not under direct control or restriction at a particular time;
- free roaming **dog with no owner**;
- **feral dog (?)**: domestic ~~that has reverted to the wild state and is no longer directly dependent upon humans.~~
- **Dog population control programme (DPCP)**: means a programme with the aim of **reducing** a stray dog population to a particular level and/or **maintaining** it at that level and/or **managing** it in order to meet a predetermined objective.







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# Guiding principles

- ✓ *Critical importance of promotion of **responsible dog ownership***
- ✓ *Evidence that **dog ecology** is linked to **human behaviour***
- ✓ *Need to **change human behaviour** to be successful in stray dog population management programs*





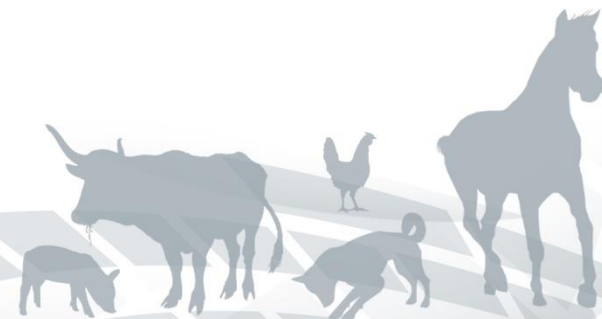
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- **Competent Authority** - the **Veterinary Authority** or other **Governmental Authority** having the responsibility and competence **for ensuring or supervising the implementation** of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and in the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.
- **Veterinary Services** - means the **governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement** animal health and welfare measures .... private sector organisations, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the Veterinary Authority to deliver the delegated functions





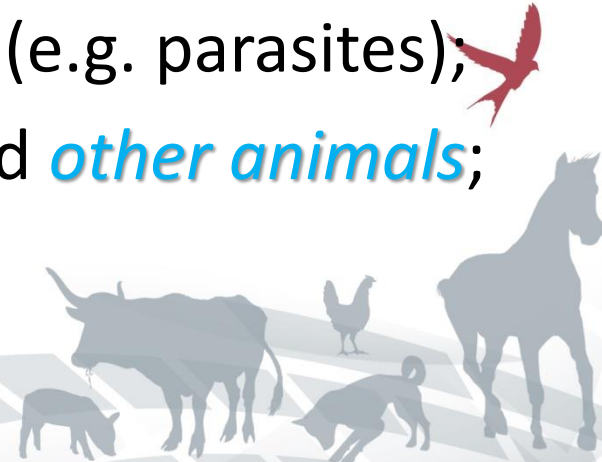
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# DPCP objectives

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- promote *responsible ownership*;
- *improve health and welfare* of owned and stray dog population
- *reduce numbers of stray dogs* to an acceptable level;
- assist in the creation and maintenance of a *rabies immune or rabies free dog population*;
- reduce the *risk of zoonotic diseases* other than rabies;
- manage other *risks to human health* (e.g. parasites);
- prevent *harm to the environment* and *other animals*;
- prevent *illegal trade and trafficking*.





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# Control measures

The control measures could be implemented according to the national context, resources, facilities and local circumstances.

- Education and legislation for **responsible ownership**
- **I&R**
- **Reproductive control**
- **Handling/Removal**
- **CNR** (*rehoming or release*)
- **Environmental controls**
- **Dog movement controls:** International (export/import) and within country
- **Monitoring & Evaluation**







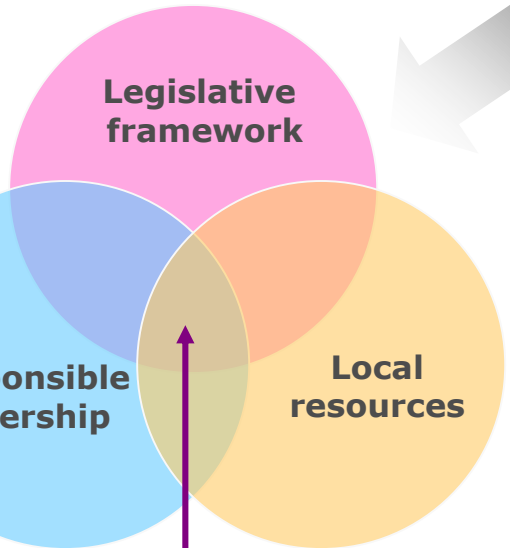
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Veterinary Services

Municipalities, Local Authorities

Animal Welfare  
Associations



Private vets

Community

University

**Dog population  
control programs**

National and Regional  
CAs

Media

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# Art.7.7.4 Responsibilities and competencies

## Veterinary Authority

- implementation of AH/AW legislation, in coordination with other competent government agencies and institutions.
- control of endemic zoonotic diseases (technical advice)  
(non-governmental organisations and other governmental agencies)

## Other government agencies

depending on the **risk being managed** and the **objective/nature of the dog population control measures employed**

- **public health agency** responsible for zoonotic diseases control
- control of stray dogs with regard to other human health risks (e.g. stray dogs on roads; dog attacks within communities) -> **local government authorities** or other agencies for **public safety/security** operating at the state/provincial or municipal level.
- **environment protection agencies** -> hazard to the environment (e.g. control of feral dogs in national parks; prevention of dog attacks on wildlife, waste or human sewage)





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# Private sector veterinarians

- **advice to dog owners** or handlers
- **disease surveillance** -> *rabies notification according to the procedures*
- **cases of neglect** that can lead to problems with stray and mismanaged dogs. (often in liaison with the police and/or local authorities)
- **dog health programmes and population control measures** (health testing, vaccination, I&R, kennelling during the absence of the owner, sterilisation and euthanasia).
- **two-way communication** with Veterinary Authority (veterinary professional organisation)





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## NGOs

Strategic partners of Veterinary  
Services

- **public awareness** and understanding helping to obtain **resources**
- **design and implementation** of DPCPs
- **supply local knowledge on dog populations and features of ownership**
- **expertise in handling and kennelling dogs** and the implementation of **sterilisation programmes**
- **educating the public in responsible dog ownership.**



# Città di Pineto

Provincia di Teramo  
COMUNE OPERATORE DI PACE



### ORDER OF STATUTORY AUDITOR n° 31 DEL 14/07/2015

- 1) The use of this area is allowed from sunrise to sunset during the entire period of the bathing season.
- 2) Only dogs enrolled to the dog birth register can access to the beach.
- 3) Every excrement of the animals must be immediately removed by the owners/holders, that must have a shovel, and stored in a proper container.
- 4) Owners/holders are responsible for the welfare and the control of the animals. Any infringement against these conditions and any injury to people, animals and property caused by the animal sw webhall give rise to the liabilities legally determined.
- 5) Owners/holders must be equipped with proper leash and muzzle to be used in case of need.
- 6) The animals must be fitted with collar with a nameplate indicating the pet owner's details.
- 7) Animals bathing is allowed from 12:30 p.m. to 14:30 and from 18:30 to 20:00. The area for dog bathing includes the seaside in front of the abovementioned area, under the control and the responsibility of the pet owners/holders.
- 8) The animals should be free from infestations of fleas, ticks or other parasites.
- 9) It is in the responsibility of the owners/holders for the animal welfare find further shaded areas and provide for the supply of water in case of need.
- 10) The access is forbidden to female dogs during oestrus period.
- 11) But the acces is always allowed in case of guide dogs for blind people.
- 12) The person responsible for the cleaning and restoration of the beach will be identified, in terms of law.

**PLEASE KEEP IT CLEAN FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE BEACH!**

To report any offenders or any infringement contact the Municipal Police at **366 6283640**

Visit "Rifugio Anta Onlus"... a friend is waiting for you!

Anta Onlus Pineto tel.: 342 7258032 mail: pineto@antaonlus.org Fb: AntaOnlus Pineto



Sezione di Pineto



BANDIERA BLU 2016





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# Local government authorities

- services and programmes that relate public health, environmental health/hygiene and inspection/compliance activities.
- development and enforcement of legislation relating to dog ownership (e.g. registration, microchipping, vaccination, leash laws, abandonment)
- control of stray dogs (e.g. dog catching and shelters)
- alleviation of the problems stray dogs cause in their jurisdiction

with **advice from a higher level** (national or state/provincial) authority with specialised expertise in regard to public health and animal health







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**But first of all.....**  
**Individual and**  
**collective**  
**responsibility towards**  
**animals**





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## Art.7.7.5 Advisory Group

Could\* be set at:

- **National level** (dog population action plan?)
- **Regional/local level** linked to specific DPCPs with a **“variable geometry”** approach

**To be established by the Competent Authority** in order to:

- analyse and quantify the problem
- identify the causes
- obtain public opinion
- propose the most effective approaches to be used in the short /long term

### Composition:

- veterinarians (vet. paraprofessionals\*)
- experts in social sciences/communication\*
- epidemiologists\*
- experts in dog ecology/behaviour/**dog population dynamics\***
- experts in zoonotic diseases
- representatives of relevant stakeholders (local gov. authorities, public health, environmental control and public safety/security agencies/authorities, NGOs and the public)

\* Proposed by the author





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## Art.7.7.7 Monitoring and evaluation of DPCP

- ✓ *To improve **performance***
- ✓ *To demonstrate that the **programme is achieving its aims***
- ✓ *To compare **different strategies***
- ✓ ***Indicators** (dog population size and related subpopulations, dog welfare ,prevalence of zoonotic diseases, people attitudes and behaviour)*
- ✓ ***Sources of information** (surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, expert opinions, direct observation)*



# Veterinary Authority - supervision, implementation

Veterinary Services - implementation

DPCP 01

DPCP 02

Environmental protection agency

Public health agency

Public  
safety/security  
agency

DPCP 03

DPCP 04

(DPCP = dog population control program)

# The actors at DPCP level







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## PVS Critical Competence CC I.6.A/B

**A. Internal coordination** - The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) with a clear chain of command, from the central level (the Chief Veterinary Officer), to the field level of the VS in order to implement all national activities relevant for the Codes (i.e. surveillance, disease control and eradication, food safety and early detection and rapid response programmes).

**B. External coordination** - The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) at all levels with other relevant authorities as appropriate. Relevant authorities include other ministries and Competent Authorities national agencies and decentralised institutions There are national external coordination mechanisms for all activities and these are periodically reviewed and updated.

## OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services

OIE PVS Tool



2013

Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal



# The «Italian» model

## National Framework Law 281/91

### Regional Law 47/13

### Ordinances/Ministerial Decrees

#### DPCP 01

##### Municipalities

- Financial resources
- Direct responsibility over free roaming and «community dogs» dogs
- Sanctions
- Information/education
- I&R
- Incentive adoptions

##### Veterinary Services

- Information/education
- Catching and health checks
- I&R
- Spay/neuter
- Epidemiological surveillance
- Dangerous dogs
- Authorization and control over breeders/sellers/shelters/kennels


##### Private practitioners

- Information/education
- I&R
- Spay/neuter
- Epidemiological surveillance
- Dangerous dogs

##### NGOs

- Information/education
- Spay/neuter
- Long term shelters
- Monitoring «community dogs» welfare
- Sanctions
- Incentive adoptions





**Enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in people's behaviour, it needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches**



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# Community based DPCP should be developed and implemented in a collaborative way

A balanced approach that both benefits dogs and their owners but also the wider community has to be promoted in order to:

- **create an environment** which encourages **responsible pet ownership**, where people and animals integrate safely and harmoniously within the community
- recognise that **companion animals are sentient beings** contributing to the **human quality of life**







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**And now I have a present for  
you!!!**





**BIRTHS** (? %)  
Nr ?

# CURRENT POPULATION

**DEATHS** (?%)  
Nr ?

