



**Second OIE regional Workshop  
on Stray Dog population management  
for Balkan countries (SDB2)**  
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**Country Report on National Stray Dogs situation  
Report from Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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# I. Understanding country situation

- It is virtually impossible to estimate the stray dog situation in B&H, as there is no operative and systematic monitoring for the stray dog population.
- This is due to a general lack of interest for this issue from the higher level (politicians).
- Some municipalities have recognized the importance of the Strategy, and decided to implement it locally. However, that is hardly sufficient if we have in mind all circumstances.
- Hence, the main problems to be challenged in the upcoming period are the political ones: the politicians/government should be persuaded to acknowledge the importance of the issue and to adopt the Strategy as the first step towards its systematic solution.

## II. Control measures

Although national Strategy is not adopted, some control measures are implemented:

- **Control of reproduction:** there is an overall increase of sterilisation/castration of dogs, especially owners' dog – as these dogs are recognized as integral to the overall issue (they are not registered and their owners often let them loose)
- **Identification of stray dogs:** SVO distributed 25,000 microchips and rabies vaccines to municipalities exclusively for stray dogs
- **Control of dogs' movement:** due to an increase in international trade of dogs, i.e. export of dogs from B&H to EU, the control of certificates for non-commercial movement has become more strict.
- **Shelter-related activities and regulations:** education the shelter management and staff, promotion of adoption, etc.
- **The procedure for commercial movement** of dog is also established. SVO gives its seal of approval to the shelters from which the dogs can be transported outside the country. So far, five shelters have met the criteria for this approval.
- **Control of breeding and sale:** the breeding-related legislation is improved.



## II. Control measures

The main remaining challenges:

- to coordinate all these activities at the national level, as at this point they are conducted only in some municipalities and cities, by the local government, veterinarians and NGOs;
- to establish the joint ID data base on the state level in accordance with Strategy;
- to raise public awareness regarding responsible ownership.

The proposed steps:

- adoption and implementation of the Strategy on the national level;
- conducting the OIE campaign on the stray dogs.



## III. Monitoring and evaluation

Unfortunately, due to an absence of the legislative framework (Strategy), no effective and reliable monitoring and evaluation can be conducted on the national level. Some data are collected separately, on the local – municipal, city, cantonal – level, but they are inconclusive with regard to the wider, nation-level picture.

The main challenge is to provide the data from the other parts of the country as well, and to collect them all in a joint data base.

## IV. Rabies dimension

- The last cases of rabies were registered in 2014 (4 cases of wildlife rabies).
- No reported/registered case of rabies in wildlife for two years now.
- No reported/registered case of dog rabies for four years now.
- No dog – human transmission of rabies.
- B&H has got control program vaccination of wildlife.
- SVO supported IPA Program: distributed 25 000 vaccines for stray dog population.
- No, because the Global framework for the elimination of dog mediated rabies. Not applicable for B&H.

## V. Conclusions and future needs

- Overall, do you consider that your country is in compliance with OIE standard on Stray Dog population control in terms of:
  - **Assessing the situation**
  - Controlling the situation
  - Monitoring the situation
- Do you need external aid to address the weakness(es) with stray dogs in your country? Yes
- In addressing this issue, B&H welcomes every assistance based on the best practices in OIE members countries.



**Thank you for your attention!**