



Second OIE Workshop on stray dog population management

in the Balkan countries (SDB2)

Tirana / Albania – 14-16 June 2016

Country Report on National Stray Dogs situation

Report from GREECE

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I. Understanding country situation

- Stray dogs' population consists a significant problem in Greece especially in urban areas.
- The number of stray dogs is still high, especially due to the continuing financial crisis in the country since 2010.
- The **number of stray dogs** is estimated via the records kept by municipalities regarding **capture** and **identification/registration** either by individual municipalities or by associations of municipalities (e.g. Association of Municipalities of Athens and Piraeus, Thessaloniki etc.). The Greek MRDF periodically requests data about these records.
- Greek National Legislation is active.
(Greek Law 4039/2012, as modified by Law 4235/2014, Law 4351/2015, Law 4384/2016).



I. Understanding country situation

- There is currently no absolutely reliable data on the number of owned and stray dogs on a national level. **Identification and Registration** is obligatory since **2012**.
- The national online database for the registration run by the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food is fully in operation since **December 2015**. Veterinarians directly register and work on this database. 29.069 dogs and 20.701 owners have been registered until 3.6.2016.
- A significant percentage of stray dogs are formerly owned dogs that have been abandoned and reproduce freely.

II. Control measures

- The national legal framework addresses the **municipalities** as the responsible authorities for stray dog population management. Relevant management programs are applied at a local municipal level and not uniformly at a national level.
- Stray dogs are being captured and transferred to animal shelters or municipal or private veterinary clinics, being:
 - **Micro chipped (identified)**
 - Registered in the national online database (as stray dog, owned to competent municipality)
 - Undergo veterinary examination
 - **Surgically sterilized**
 - Dewormed
 - Vaccinated against rabies (only for dogs older than 3 months of age)
 - Released in place of collection (if appropriate) or offered for adoption

II. Control measures



Environmental Association of Municipalities of Region Athens and Piraeus
Intermunicipal Center of Hospitalization for Stray Dogs (19 Municipalities)

II. Control measures

- **Chemical euthanasia** is enforced in the cases of :
 - Dogs unable to survive in the environment by themselves (blind, paralyzed, over aged etc.)
 - Dogs suffering from chronic illness (renal insufficiency etc) or transmittable incurable disease
 - Dogs that are extremely aggressive and dangerous for humans and other animals.
 - It should be noted that the decision about which dogs should be euthanized is taken by a Committee (for the monitoring of the stray dogs management program) formed in municipalities with 5 members(1 representative of Municipality, 1 veterinarian, 1 dog trainer and 2 members of animal welfare groups). In case of disagreement, the final decision is made by a Special Scientific Committee of three veterinarians.

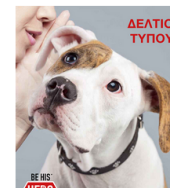
II. Control measures

The most important next steps for Greece would be the encouragement to adopt stray dogs and enforce this action.

Greece has launched the OIE Campaign on stray dogs in the Balkans for the year 2016-2017.

<http://minagric.gr/index.php/el/>

Μέσα Στήριξης Βασείων,
Αιγοπροβάτων & Χοίρων
09.05.2016
Περιφερειακό Κέντρο Προστ.
Φυτών & Ποικτικού Ελέγχου
Ηρακλείου



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
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ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ

Επίκαιρα Θέματα Νομοθετικό Έργο Με ένα κλικ!

Μικροβιακή αντοχή στην κολοκύτινα

- ✦ Εκστρατεία ευαισθητοποίησης για τη φιλοζωία από τον Πανεκτικό Οργανισμό για την Υγεία των Ζώων
- ✦ Πρόσκληση του Μέτρου 13 «ΕΝΙΣΧΥΣΕΙΣ ΣΕ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΕΣ ΠΟΥ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΙΖΟΝΤΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΦΥΣΙΚΑ Ή ΑΛΛΑ ΕΙΔΙΚΑ ΜΕΙΩΝΕΤΗΜΑΤΑ» του ΠΑΑ 2014-2020
- ✦ Ερωτησινά του Μέτρου 13 «ΕΝΙΣΧΥΣΕΙΣ ΣΕ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΕΣ ΠΟΥ ΧΑΡΑΚΤΗΡΙΖΟΝΤΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΦΥΣΙΚΑ Ή ΑΛΛΑ ΕΙΔΙΚΑ ΜΕΙΩΝΕΤΗΜΑΤΑ» του ΠΑΑ 2014-2020
- 🔴 Η σπάνια και Κοινοτική Νευροσίτις (Dirofilaria immitis/Yasumatsu)
- ✦ Εθνική και Κοινοτική Νομοθεσία για τα Δημητριακά
- ✦ Προσωπική Συνδεδεμένη Στήριξη από το 2015 Όμοια-Πρωτόνομα Κτηνοτροφικά Ψυχανθή
- ✦ Πρόσκληση εκδήλωσης ενδυνάμυντος συμμετοχής σε λίστες επιμεριστικών Οργανισμού της Κοινότητας στην τριετή των αγροτικών προθέσεων
- ✦ Καταγραφή, ταξινόμηση και αξιολόγηση των συνόλων εντοπισμένων πληρωσιμών και δεδομένων του Υποσυνόλου Αγροτικής Ανάπτυξης και Τροφίμων σύμφωνα με την παρ. 3, του άρθρου 10, του ν. 3448/2006 (Α'57)
- ✦ Ολόκληρη Δημιουργία των Βασείων
- 🟢 Καταγραφή & Προβολή Ελληνικών Τροφίμων
- 🟢 Φορέας Κατάστασης & Ποιοποίησης στην Ορθολογική Χρήση των Γεωργικών Φαρμάκων
- 🟢 Κατάλογος ενταχθέντων επενδυτικών σχεδίων στα πλαίσια του Μέτρου 123Α

III. Monitoring and evaluation

Table	Control Program of Greek Municipalities for <u>2015</u> (according to data known to Ministry of Rural Development and Food)	
Microchip	18.663	
Adopted	6.215	
Dewormed	103 (?)	
Sterilized	19.189	
Vaccinated against rabies	25.464	
	IMPORTANT: Many municipalities do not respond regarding information on these activities!	

III. Monitoring and evaluation

Inspections of municipal shelter facilities.

- **Points of monitoring:**
 - Law compliance (appliance of the stray dogs management program)
 - Consistency in standardized procedures (e.g. ISO where applicable),
 - Environmental protection issues (waste treatment, cremators etc)
- **Points for intervention are highlighted.**
- **Reasons for non compliance are pointed out (e.g. insufficient financing, human and technical resources) .**
- **Next steps: Enhancement of the Implementation of the stray dog Management programs by Municipalities.**



IV. Rabies dimension

- Greece was a **rabies - free** country until **19th October 2012** when the virus was firstly detected in a red fox from Kozani area. 48 animals have tested positive for rabies ever since, amongst which 5 dogs. **No new incidents have been reported since June 2014.**
- Greece implements rabies control program (active and passive surveillance).
- The Greek competent authorities do not participate in the Global framework for the elimination of dog mediated rabies adopted in December 2015.

IV. Rabies dimension



Rabies cases since 2012

V. Conclusions and future needs

- Greece is in compliance with OIE standard on Stray Dog population control in terms of:
 - Assessing the situation
 - Controlling the situation
 - Monitoring the situation
- The scientific personnel is aware of the need for a fully compliant stray dog population control scheme. However the fulfillment is dependent on **political decisions** and **sufficient financial resources**.
- The greatest problem in applying animal control programmes is to overcome the **tremendous pressures** exerted by various **animal welfare groups** that are unaware of public health issues and strategies and influence the national policies.

V. Conclusions and future needs

Weak Points:

- Lack of a uniform policy of European countries for the control of zoonotic disease (e.g. Leishmaniasis)
- No financing of the Control Strategy from the EU.
- No cooperation between countries to press down illegal transport of animals (stray dog shipments from Greece to Germany, Netherlands, Belgium etc.) This practice is condemned and should be stopped.



Thank you very much!