



**Third OIE regional Workshop  
on Stray Dog population management  
for Balkan countries (SDB3)**  
Belgrade / Serbia – 13-15 June 2018

**Country Report on National Stray Dogs situation  
Report from Republic of Bulgaria**

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# Legislation

1. Law of the veterinary activity;
2. Animal protection law - to be amended in 2018 (with regard to the pet ownership and pet breeding)
3. Ordinance 41 of the minimum requirements for establishments in which animals are raised, bred and / or marketed for the purpose of commerce, boarding houses and animal shelters;
4. Municipal ordinances and dog population control programs;
5. Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules animals;
6. Standard operating procedures of the inspection a shelter for stray dogs;
7. Checklist for checking shelters for stray animals to comply with rules on health and welfare.
8. SOP 10 Certification procedure for the transport of the domestic family for commercial purpose of Regulation (EC) № 1/2005;
9. National programme for control of stray dog - under preparation

# National program to control the population of stray dogs



## Objectives:

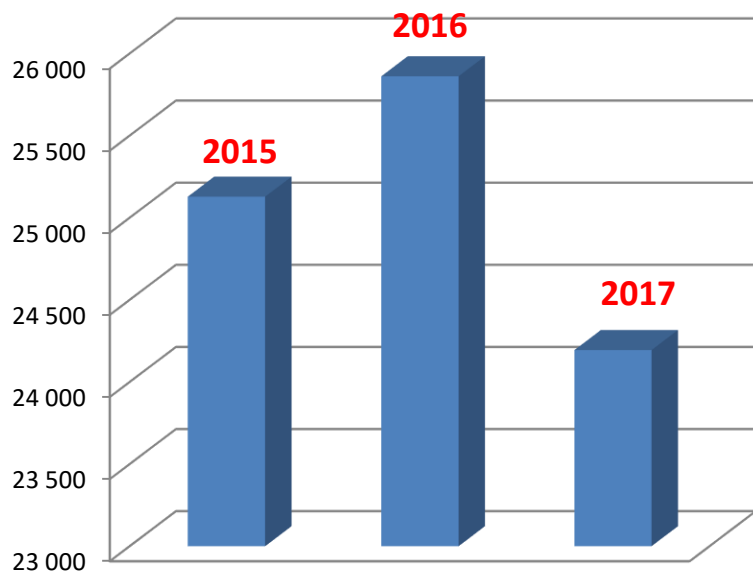
1. Improve health and welfare of dogs;
2. Reduce numbers of stray dogs to an acceptable level;
3. Promote responsible ownership;
4. Assist in the creation and maintenance of a rabies immune or rabies free population;
5. Reduce the risks of zoonotic disease other than rabies;
6. Manage other risks to human health (e.g. Parasites)
7. Prevent harm to the environment and other animals;
8. Prevent illegal trade and trafficking

# I. Understanding country situation

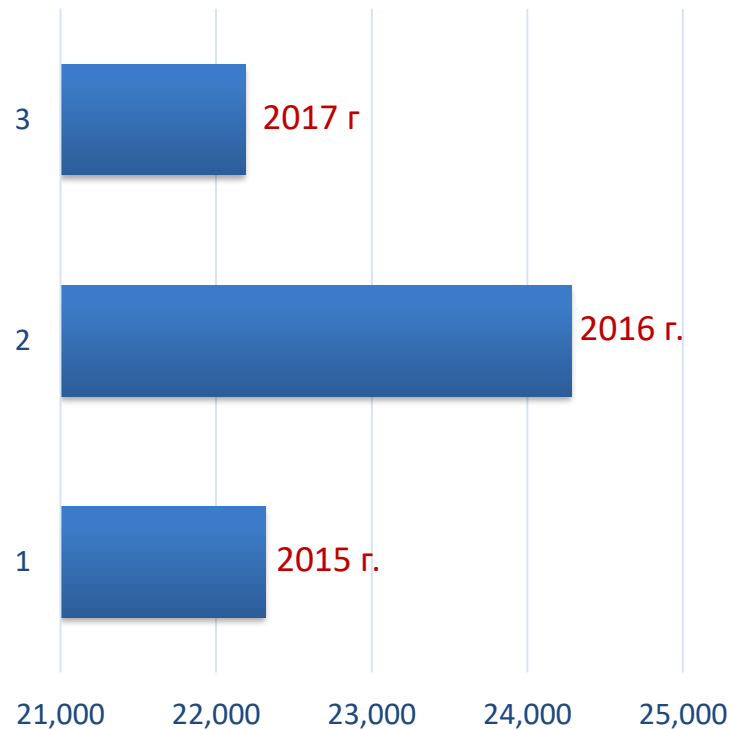


## Captured stray dogs

### Counted stray dogs



**Legend :**  
2015 - 25 128 pcs.  
2016 - 25 861 pcs.  
2017 - 24 194 pcs.



**Legend:**  
2017 r. - 22 318 pcs.  
2016 r. - 24 283 pcs.  
2015 r. - 22 186 pcs.

# I. Understanding country situation

## Shelters for stray dogs

*1. Increasing number of registered shelters in Bulgaria - 47 ( 9 are owned by NGOs) as by June 2018; National Register of shelters in Bulgaria published :*

*[http://www.babh.government.bg/bg/Object/site\\_register/view/5/%D0%97%D0%B4%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BE%20%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%B2](http://www.babh.government.bg/bg/Object/site_register/view/5/%D0%97%D0%B4%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BE%20%D0%BF%D0%B0%D0%B2)*

*2. Enhanced control of shelters to verify the compliance of the Animal health and welfare rules (registration, identification, vaccination, treatment against parasites and uploading the data into the national database), as well as the implementation of the Programme for control of stray dog population;*

	2016	2017
Inspections for the implementation of the Programs for control of stray dog population	291	318
Inspections carried out in shelters and veterinary ambulances for the compliance with AHW rules	348	455
Corrective measures (prescription, administrative penalties)	60	91

*3. Slightly increasing the number of registered dogs into the National database showing the level of enhanced responsibility of pet owners (need to further work on it)*

## II. Aspects of rabies

On the territory of the country for the last 5 years - there have been 2 cases of rabies - 2014 in Blagoevgrad region. In Bulgaria. The rabies disease is subject to notification. There is a program to prevent, control and eradicate rabies for the period 2016 -2018.

The purpose of this program is to ensure the eradication of rabies

by oral vaccination of foxes on the territory of North and South of Bulgaria on the territory of a 20 km vaccine belt along the northern border with Romania(Danube river), Vaccination should be carried out twice a year in the spring and autumn (March-May and September-November), by air and hand distribution of vaccine baits within 16 administrative areas.

## III. Control measures

### *Municipal programs for controlling the population of stray dogs*



#### ***Objectives:***

1. To analyze issues that how to reduce the number of stray dogs;
2. Addressing the source of stray dogs;
3. Dog registration and identification;
4. Reproductive control of owned dogs and of stray dogs – surgical sterilisation;
5. Capture and return, rehoming or release.

# IV. Monitoring and evaluation



## *Municipal programs for controlling the population of stray dogs*

contain:



### ❖ Indicators about domestic dogs:

1. Number of registered domestic dogs;
2. Number of registered domestic dogs introduced in integrated information system;
3. Imposed sanctions on vets who have not submitted information about domestic dogs in integrated information system;





## *Indicators about treated stray dogs:*

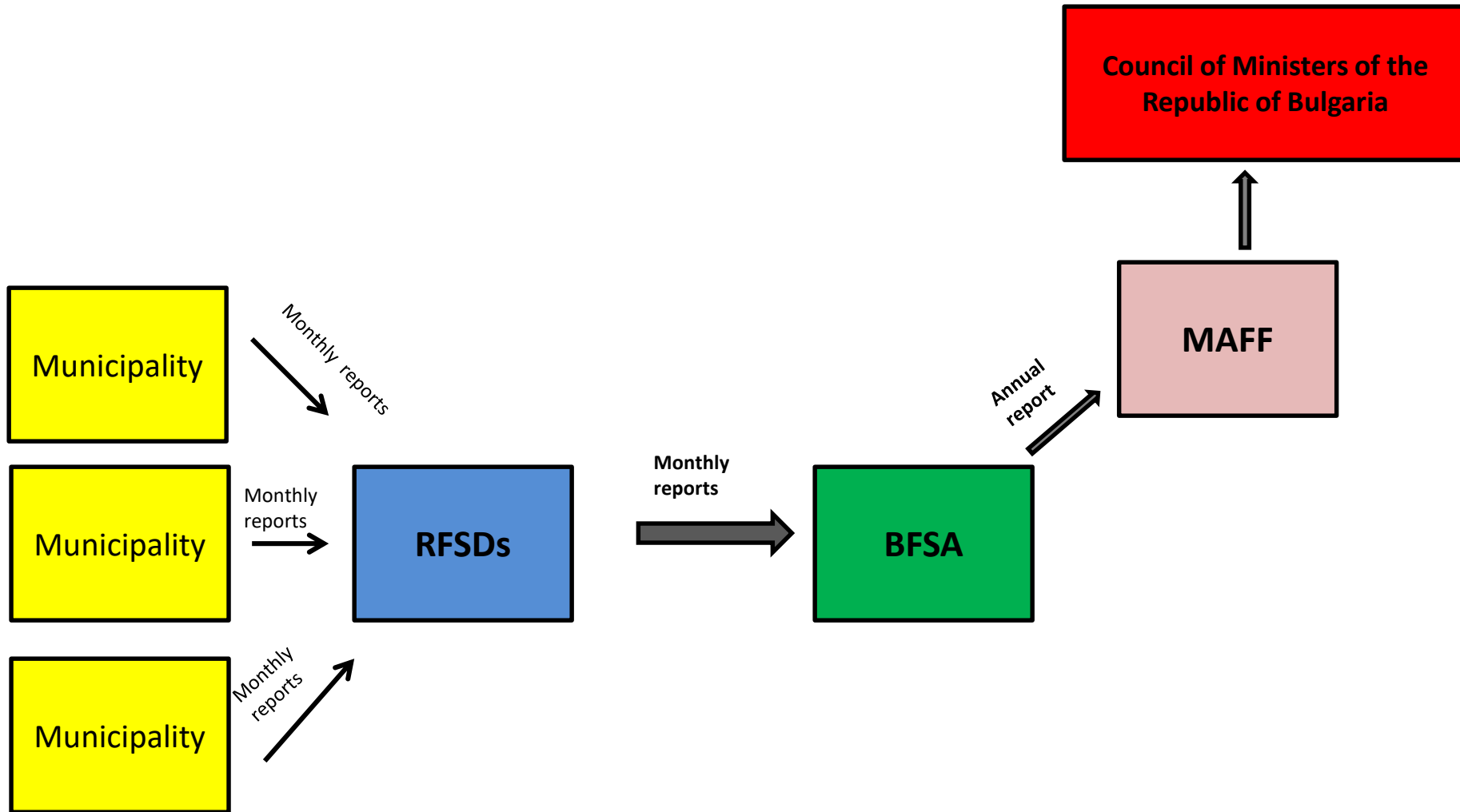


1. Registered shelters in each region;
2. Counted stray dogs;  
(counting of dogs visible in a defined area is the simplest approach to getting information on population size).
3. Captured stray dogs;
4. Number of treated and return to places dogs;
5. Number of adopted dogs;
6. Number of euthanized dogs;
7. Number of dead dogs.

# *Municipal programs for controlling the population of stray dogs*

## Reporting data and outcomes

Implementation of programmes at municipal level



## ***Municipal programs for controlling the population of stray dogs***

### **Reporting data and outcomes**

1. 266 municipalities on the territory of Bulgaria;
2. 96% from the municipalities have adopted a programme for control of the population of stray dogs
3. Comparing data from 2015 to 2017, it has been observed:
  - Increasing the number of municipalities with adopted a programme;
  - Enhancing the financial budget in a number of municipalities

*Main problems and difficulties are still related to the financial restriction*

# Stakeholders involved in Dog Population Control Program:

- Local Government Authorities;
- Other Government Authorities;
- Animal Welfare NGOs;
- State Veterinary Service;
- Private vets;
- Dog Owners.
- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- Bulgarian veterinary union;
- Ministry of finance;
- Scientific experts.



# Other activities



Control of movement and trade with pets

- impact on illegal trade

- **limit dog abandon [main source]** by making the dog owners aware of their responsibilities in the interests of both dogs (animal welfare aspects) and the wider community (public security and health aspects).

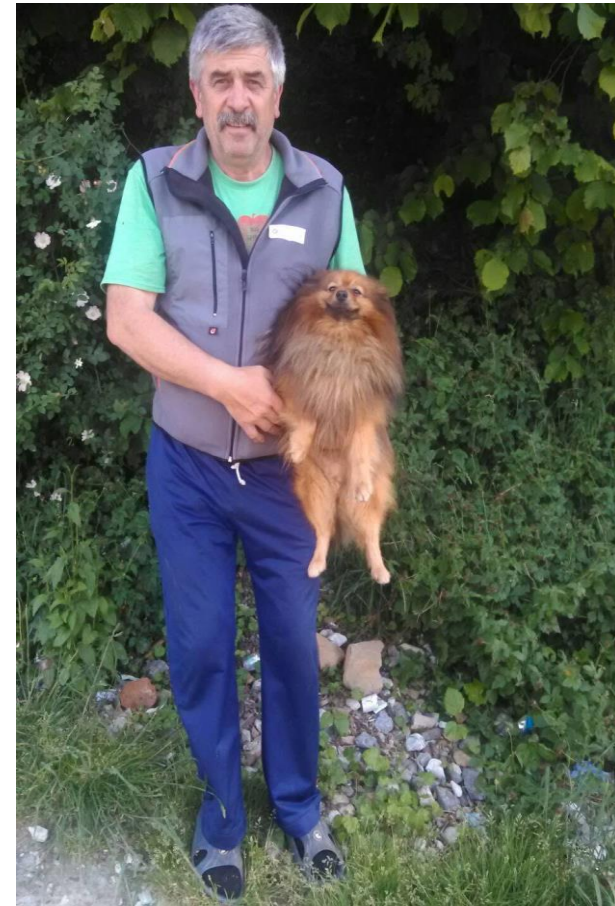
# Guiding principles



- Promotion of responsible dog ownership can significantly reduce the numbers of stray dogs and the incidence of zoonotic diseases;

- Need to change human behavior to be successful in stray dog population management programs.

- The dog ecology is linked to human behavior;





**Thank you for your attention!**