



# **Third OIE Workshop of the Regional Roadmap for stray dogs (and rabies) in the Balkans (SDB3)**

Belgrade/ Serbia – 13-15 June 2018

## **Country Report on National Stray Dogs situation Report from GREECE**

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# I. Understanding the country situation on stray dogs



- The population of stray dogs is a significant problem in Greece especially in urban areas. During the period of the financial crisis, this population remains high (40.608 registered).
- The **number of stray dogs** is estimated by records kept by municipalities, which collect data regarding **capture** and **identification/registration**. (e.g. Association of Municipalities of Athens and Piraeus, Thessaloniki etc.).



# I. Understanding the country situation on stray dogs



- There is currently no reliable data concerning the number of owned and stray dogs on a national level.
- The national online database for registration run by the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food is fully operational since December 2015. This database is used directly by the veterinarians, who have registered 198.779 dogs until 16/05/2018.
- A significant percentage of stray dogs are formerly owned dogs that have been abandoned and reproduce freely.





# I. Next steps



- The national legal framework should be better implemented with more frequent controls in order to tackle the issue of the abandonment of companion animals.
- More seminars should take place in order for all the relevant authorities and organisations to be better educated and more regularly informed. (the CCA has already planned some courses for the following years) .
- The CCA organised three consultation meetings with all (325) municipalities of Greece and other organisations in order to gather all the proposals regarding the improvement of the national legislation.
- A digital service is under development and is expected to improve the national supervising system concerning the stray dogs control program.

# I-bis. Rabies

Greece was a rabies - free country up until the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 when the virus was detected in a red fox in the area of Kozani. 48 animals have been tested positive for rabies ever since, amongst which were also 5 dogs. No new incidents have been reported since June 2014.



# I-bis. Rabies cases



Rabies cases since 2012

## I-bis. Rabies aspects

### National strategy for the prevention, control and elimination of rabies

- Border control of all imported companion animals.
- Control of dog movements inside the country.
- Obligatory vaccination against rabies of all companion animals (stray and owned ) and registration in National Database
- National Surveillance and Control Program for Rabies (<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-citizen-3/nosimata-zoon/457-lissa>)



## II. Control measures on stray dogs

- According to the national legal framework, the **municipalities** are responsible for management of the stray dog population (Greek Law 4039/2012, as modified by Law 4235/2014, Law 4351/2015, Law 4384/2016). This management takes place in a local municipal level and not in a national level.
- Stray dogs are being captured and transferred to animal shelters or veterinary clinics (municipal or private ). There, they are:
  - **Micro chipped (identified)**
  - **Registered in the national online database**
  - **Undergone veterinary examination**
  - **Surgically sterilized**
  - **Dewormed**
  - **Vaccinated against rabies (only for dogs older than 3 months)**
  - **Released back to the place of collection (if appropriate) or offered up for adoption**



## II. Control measures on stray dogs

- **Chemical euthanasia** is enforced in cases of dogs that are :
  - unable to survive in the environment by themselves (blind, paralyzed, over aged etc.)
  - suffering from chronic illness (renal insufficiency etc) or any transmittable incurable disease
  - extremely aggressive and dangerous for humans and other animals.

*It should be noted that the decision of which dog should be euthanised or not is taken by a 5-member Committee responsible for the management of the stray dogs program of the municipalities. In case of disagreement, the final decision is made by a Committee of three veterinarians.*



## II. Control measures on stray dogs

In addition, since 2016 the following two factors have helped the effort greatly:

- Funding of Dog Population Control Program by Ministry of Rural Development and Food (600.000 € per year).
- Deployment of OIE campaign on stray dog population control in Greece.



# II. BE HIS HERO OIE Campaign in Greece



**ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΠΛΗΘΥΣΜΟΥ ΑΔΕΣΠΟΤΩΝ ΣΚΥΛΩΝ - ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΛΥΣΣΑΣ**

THE OIE PLATFORM



ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΚΗ ΕΚΣΤΡΑΤΕΙΑ ΕΥΑΙΣΘΗΤΟΠΟΙΗΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΟΕ ΓΙΑ  
ΕΛΕΓΧΟ ΤΟΥ ΠΛΗΘΥΣΜΟΥ ΑΔΕΣΠΟΤΩΝ ΣΚΥΛΩΝ ΣΤΙΣ ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΚΕΣ ΧΩΡΕΣ

## II. BE HIS HERO OIE Campaign in Greece Distribution



- The Greek Central Competent Authority sent official letters to:
  - A) all Municipalities
  - B) all Prefectural Veterinary Services
  - C) the Ministry of Education
  - D) Veterinary Scientific Associations

To inform about the campaign and the relevant documents



- Available in Greek at the webpage:

<http://www.minagric.gr/index.php/el/for-citizen-2/pets/3678-filozoa>

ΥΙΟΘΕΤΗΣΤΕ  
ΕΝΑ ΑΔΕΣΠΟΤΟ!

ΕΙΣΑΙ Η  
ΗΡΩΙΔΑ  
ΜΟΥ!

ΚΤΗΝΙΑΤΡΕΙΟ

ΣΙΒΙΑΡΤΙΟ



# II. BE HIS HERO OIE Campaign in Greece Outcome



Approximately 75 schools all over Greece have requested the presentation and left excellent comments and feedback since the program started.



# II. BE HIS HERO OIE Campaign in Greece Outcome



Currently

- 15 municipalities (including the Greek Municipality Association)
  - 3 regional Units and
  - 3 Prefectural Educational Directorates
- have uploaded information about the Campaign to their websites.



**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ**  
**ΝΟΜΟΣ ΑΧΑΪΑΣ**  
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Αίγιο 18/11/2016

ΕΙΔΗΣΕΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΑ

## ΔΕΛΤΙΟΥ ΤΥΠΟΥ

**ΘΕΜΑ: Εκστρατεία ευαισθητοποίησης για τη φιλοζωία από τον Παγκόσμιο Οργανισμό για την Υγεία των Ζώων**

**ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ**

# III. Monitoring and evaluation of stray dog activities



- The national online database for the registration run by the Greek CCA, is fully operational since December 2015. Until now the majority of the Greek vets has been registered and applies the national identification and registration system (an important step in monitoring).
- Many municipalities have yet to participate in collecting these data.



# III. Monitoring and evaluation of stray dog activities



<b>Table</b>	<b>Control Program of Greek Municipalities for <u>2017</u> (according to data known to Ministry of Rural Development and Food)</b>	
Microchip	<b>25.744 (22.636 dogs and 3.108 cats)</b>	
Adopted	<b>5.394 (5.189 dogs and 205 cats)</b>	
Dewormed	<b>-</b>	
Sterilized	<b>23.856 (16.273 dogs and 7.583 cats)</b>	
Vaccinated against rabies	<b>26.562 (22818 dogs and 3744 cats)</b>	
<b>Source: National Database (16/05/2018)</b>		

# III. Monitoring and evaluation of stray dog activities

## Next steps



A **digital service** is under development and is expected to improve the national coordination and supervising system concerning the control program of stray dogs in order to overcome the lack of resources (human and financial).



## IV. Conclusions and future needs

- Even though our country has a sufficient legal framework that is in compliance with OIE standards about the control of the population of stray dogs, the implementation of the law provisions is insufficient.
- The scientific personnel is aware of the need for a fully compliant scheme for the control of the stray dog population.
- Greece in order to achieve full compliance by 2025 with Chapter 7.7. of the OIE Terrestrial animal health Code related to stray dog population needs **political decisions** and **sufficient financial resources**.





**Thank you very much!**

