Dog population counting survey and setting indicators for dog population management

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REGIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRE

It all started in 2008

- Western Balkan Veterinary Network (wbvn.net)
  - unique platform for the advancement of animal welfare in the Western Balkan region

- At the large meeting in Teramo, Italy, representatives of Western Balkan Veterinary Network concluded that there is a need to upgrade the existing Network:

Regional Animal Welfare Centre – www.RAWC.eu

RAWC – for Balkans

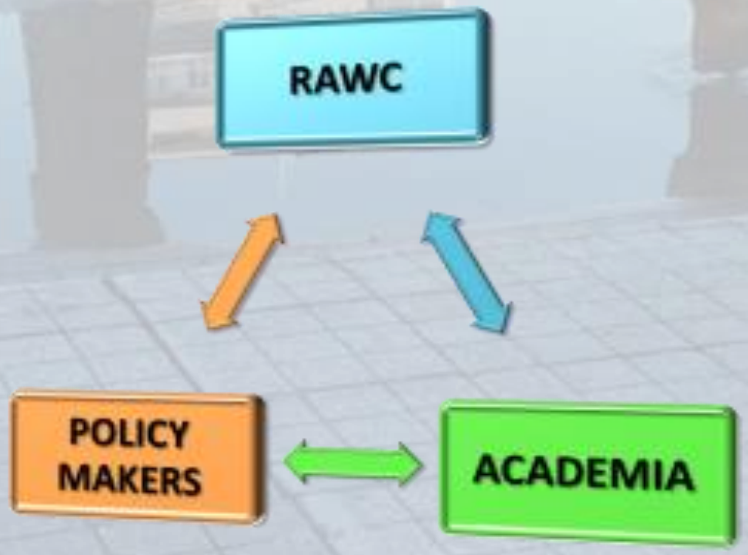
- A lot of relatively small countries with simiral cultural and historical herritage.
- Lack in experts per country itself
- Specific topics for the region (i.e. stray dog problem)

RAWC

- Hosted by Croatian Veterinary Institute in Zagreb;
- Chair appointed every year – prof Vlatko Ilieski, PhD (Macedonia)
- Steering Committee - Members of the Steering Committee are mixture of sponsors, Academia and Policy makers.

Overall strategy

to bridge over the gap between Academia and Policy makers in the region and to help them in the implementation of regional and international best practices in the field of Animal Welfare.



RAWC prioritize activities in the following areas

- **Training of business operators and stakeholders** (slaughter, pigs, broilers and transport) – coordination and dissemination of information and resources;
- **Experimental animals – implementation and training**;
- **Companion animals population management and stray dog control** – develop a regional approach and share best practice;
- **Raising farmer awareness** and engaging with **small scale farmers** to establish an effective and targeted regional approach and to explore new business models;
- **Improving efficiency and effectiveness of official controls**.

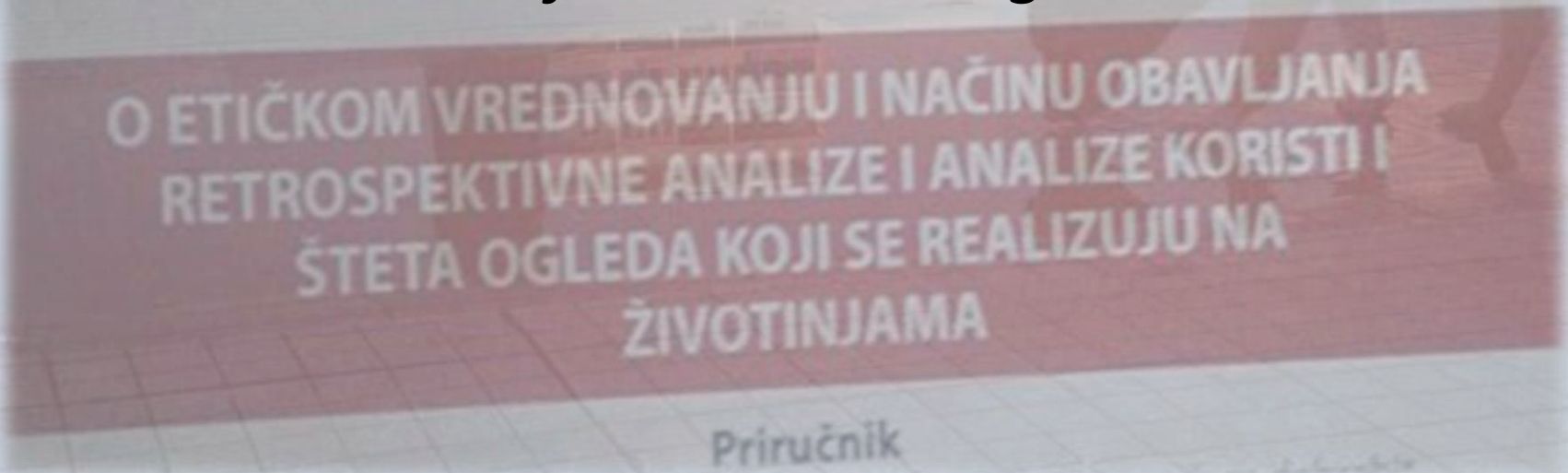
Training of business operators and stakeholders

- **Training trainers program for abbatoirs**
  - In cooperation with RSPCA, AWTraining and University of Bristol *(+50 trainers trained in Balkans and Turkey)*

- **Two day workshop**
  - Regional approach to the implementation and enforcement of Regulation 1099/2009 *(+50 participants, with a very wide range of background experience - Policy makers, Academia, Scientists and Industry)*

Experimental animals

- Members of the RAWC - *prof Ilieski and prof Vučinić coauthored a guidlines regarding the ethical issues of animal testings*.



Companion animals population management - DPM

- **Shelter Quality**
  - Active participation of four regional experts on Shelter Quality project activities.

- **Be his hero!**
  - Launched in 8 Coutries of the region (Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro). RAWC collaborated with OIE on translation, printing and distribution of the materials, and a little bit more.

- **Training of trainers on ICAM dog population management indicators**
  - five trainers trained

Be His Hero

OIE Platform
on Animal Welfare for Europe
YOU CAN TELL
YOUR DOG ANYTHING...
... EXCEPT GOODBYE.
This is a message from the World
Organisation for Animal Health
OIE / www.oie.int

International Companion Animal Management (ICAM) Coalition

- ICAM Coalition formed in 2006
  - Discuss, share and learn…

ICAM Coalition

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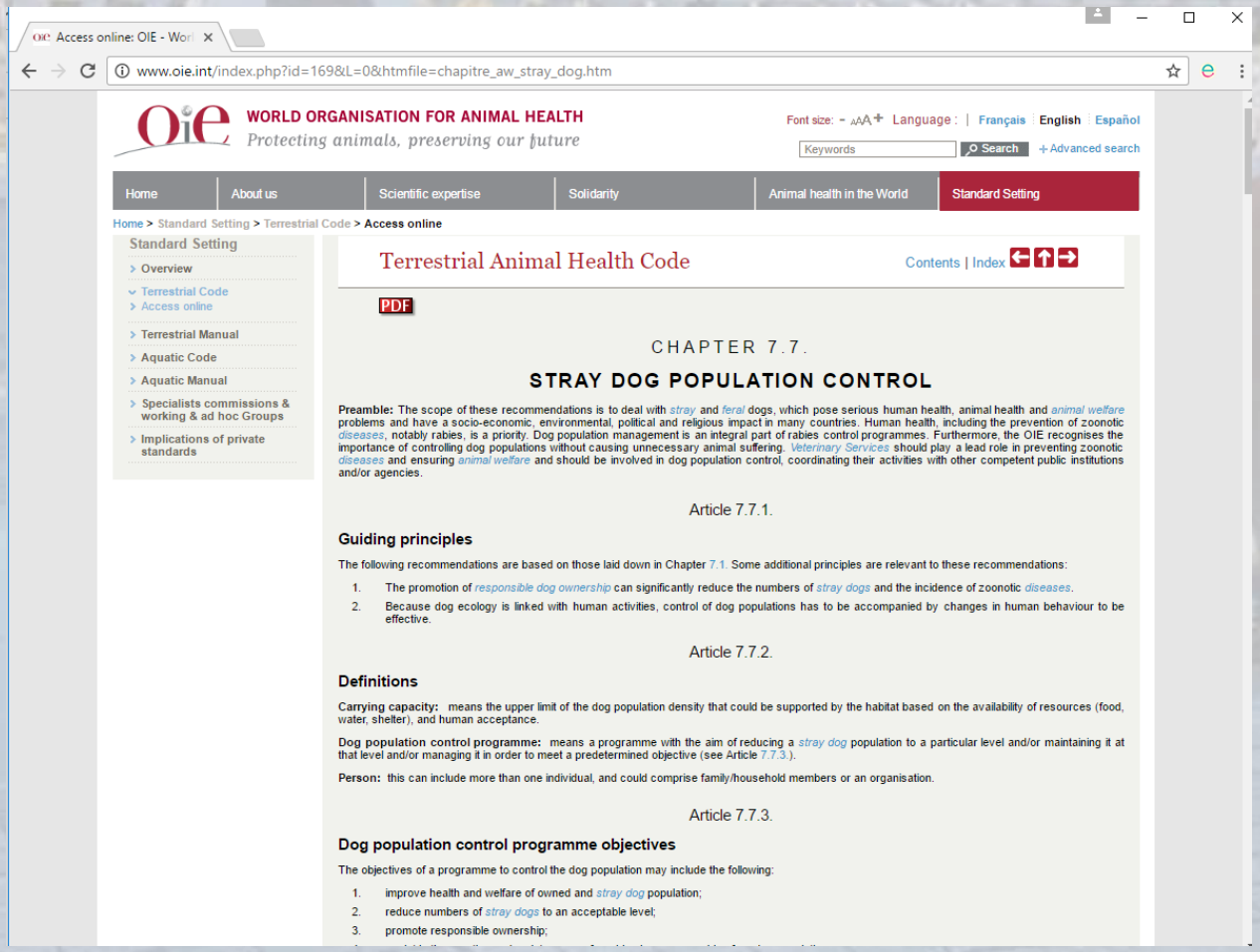
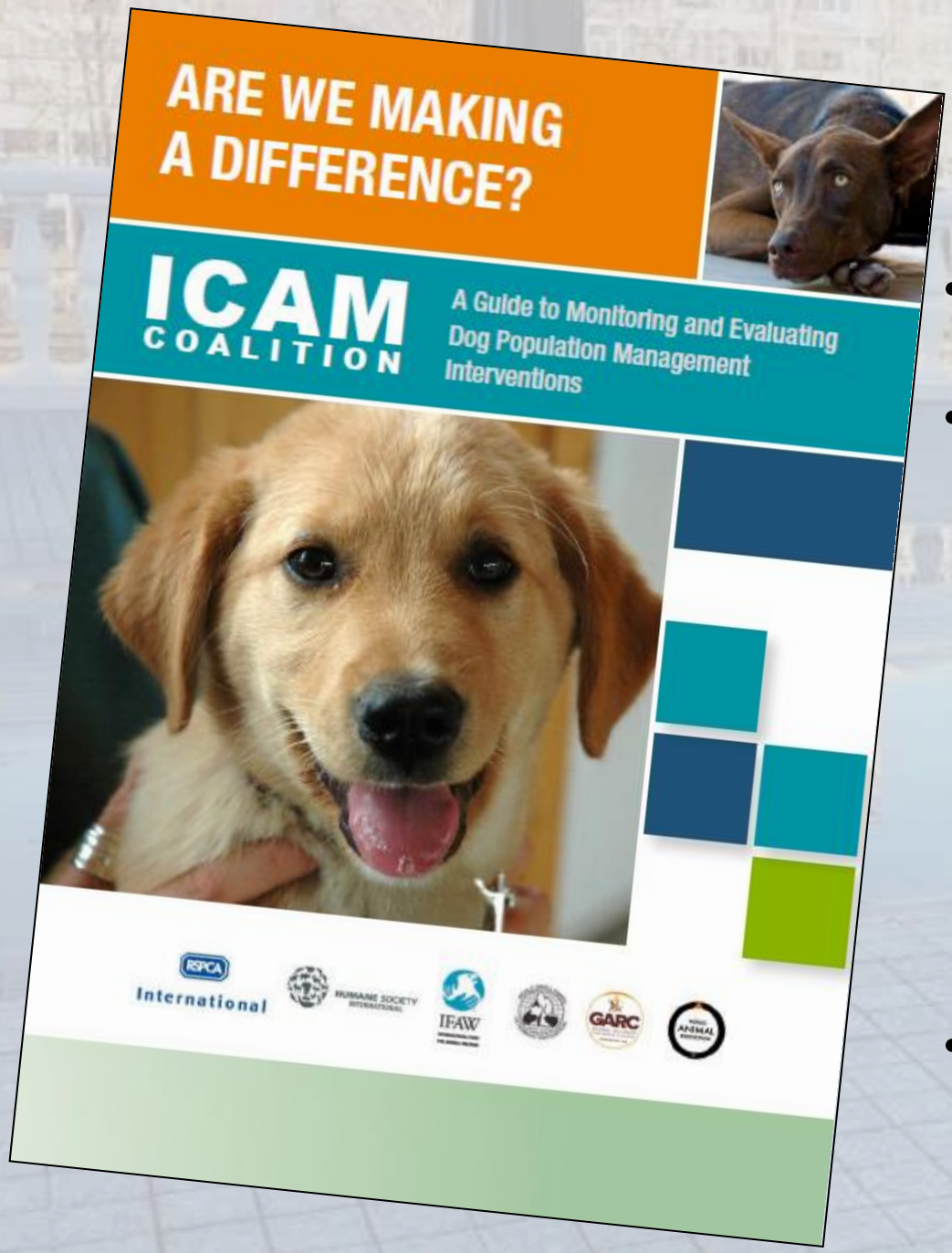
  - Discuss, share and learn…
  - Humane DPM guidance
    - Initial assessment prior to planning
    - No ‘one size fits all’
    - Match intervention to local dog population dynamics

Background

- ICAM Coalition formed in 2006
  - Discuss, share and learn…
  - Humane DPM guidance
    - » Initial assessment prior to planning
    - » No ‘one size fits all’
    - » Match intervention to local dog population dynamics
  - But what do we mean by ‘working?’
  - No shared definition of success/failure

Implementing OIE standards





- Launched 2015
- Collaborating partners
  - Boyd Orr Centre, University of Glasgow
  - JMICAWE, University of Edinburgh
  - Animal Welfare and Behaviour group, University of Bristol
  - Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases, University of Pretoria
- Many subject experts and DPM implementers

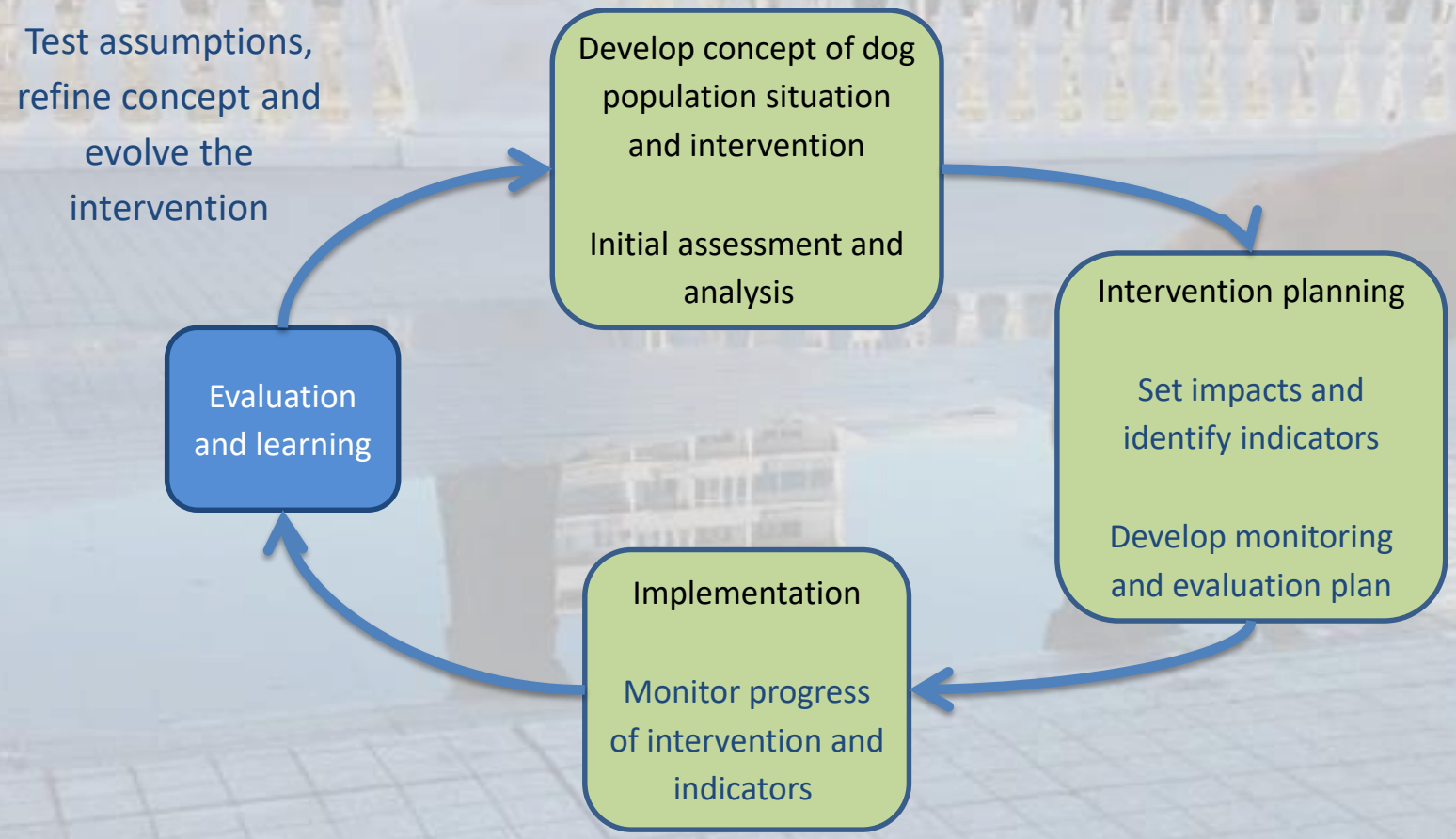
What is monitoring and evaluation (M&E)?

- **Monitoring** is systematic and routine data collection measuring intervention progress and indicators of impact.
- **Evaluation** uses data collected through monitoring to answer questions about “what difference did this intervention make?”. It is conducted regularly but not frequently and is also known as ‘**Impact assessment**’

Why invest in M&E?

- To inform donors of the impacts created through their funding
- To inform the public of any impacts on them and/or their dogs as beneficiaries of the intervention
- To provide evidence for lobbying to sustain or replicate an intervention
- To compare interventions and their relative impacts
- **To learn and improve our impact (the most important)**

Why assess our impact?



Why assess our impact?

"Success depends on knowing what works"

Bill Gates

- Quoted in the Centre for Global Development's 2006 report 'When will we ever learn? Improving lives through impact evaluation' (Savedoff et al., 2006)

Definitions of key terms

- An **Intervention** is a combined set of activities with specific changes or impacts in mind
- **Impacts** are the changes we hope to contribute towards through our interventions
- **Indicators** are measurable signs of impacts (also known as metrics); they are the things we would see or hear if our desired impact was occurring
- **Methods of measurement** are the techniques we use to measure our indicators

Working groups

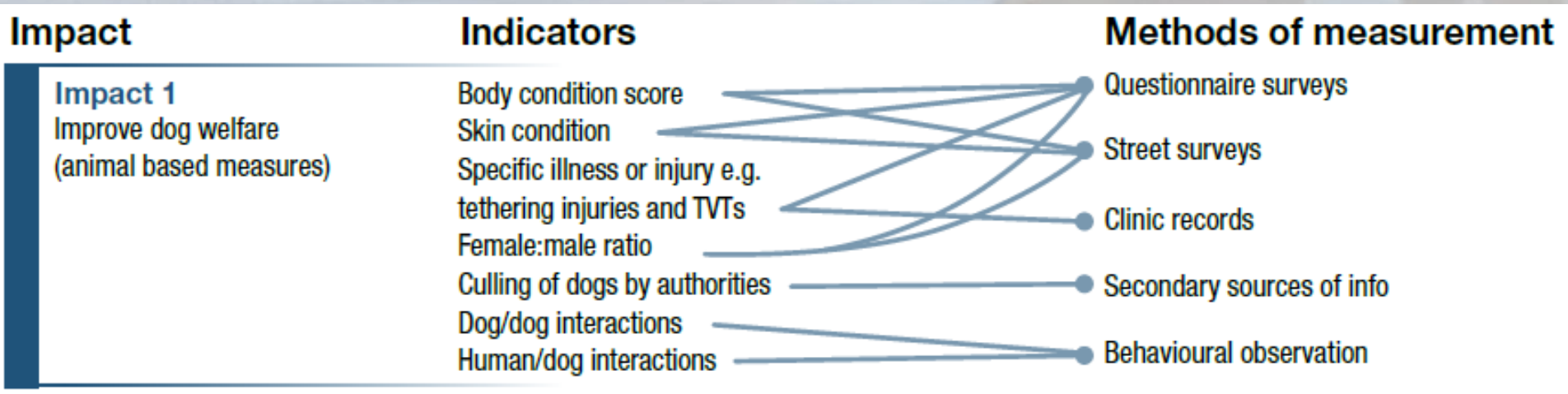
Take 5 minutes to identify main welfare indicators regarding the problems from your country.

8 Impacts

1. Improve dog welfare
2. Improve care provided to dogs
3. Reduce dog density/Stabilise turnover
4. Reduce risks to public health
5. Improve public perception
6. Improve rehoming centre performance
7. Reduce negative impacts of dogs on wildlife
8. Reduce negative impacts of dogs on livestock

Indicators

- **Each impact has a list of indicators**
  - ***Recommended***
  - ***Suggested***



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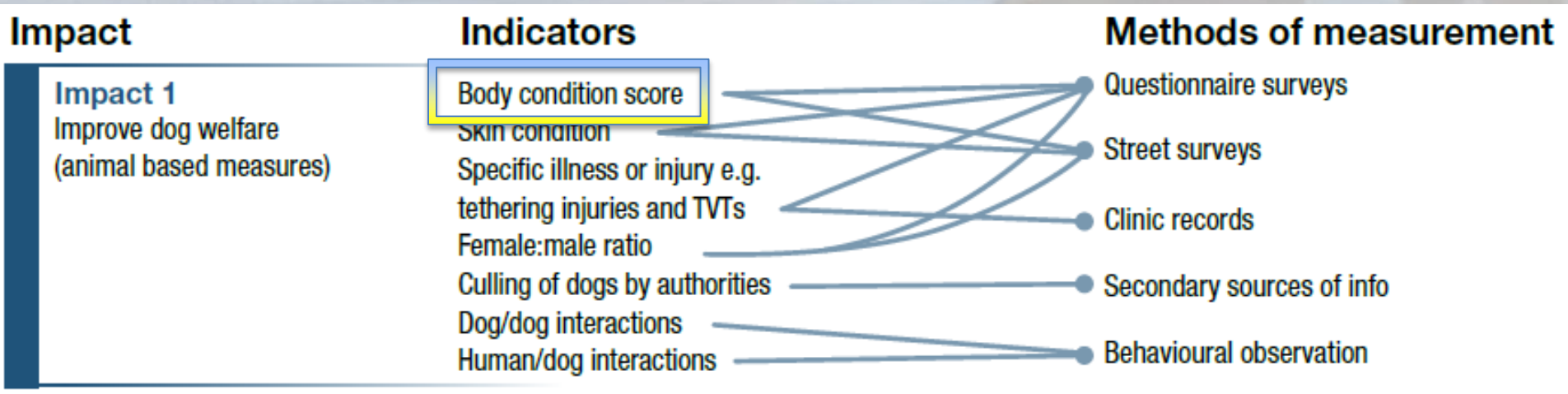

e.g. Body condition score – *recommended*

e.g. Body condition score – *recommended*

- Yoak et al (2014) Disease control through fertility control: Secondary benefits of animal birth control in Indian street dogs. *Prev Vet Med, 113; 152– 156*
  - Compared untreated dogs in Indian cities with and without current CNR (ABC) interventions
  - Untreated dogs in intervened cities had improved body condition
  - Potential mechanism; reduced dog density led to increased resource availability for all dogs

- Sankey et al (2012) Change in public perception of roaming dogs in Colombo City. *Presentation at 1st Int DPM conference*
  - Compared treated and untreated dogs in Colombo, Sri Lanka during comprehensive management intervention
  - Treated dogs had improved body condition
  - Potential mechanism; reduced breeding behaviour led to improved body condition

Indicators

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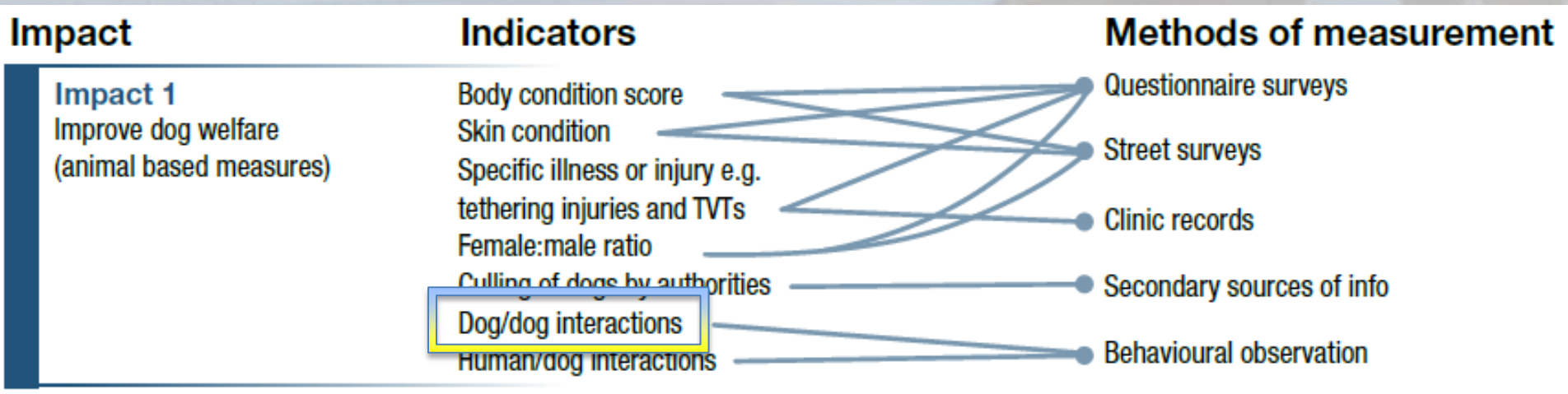


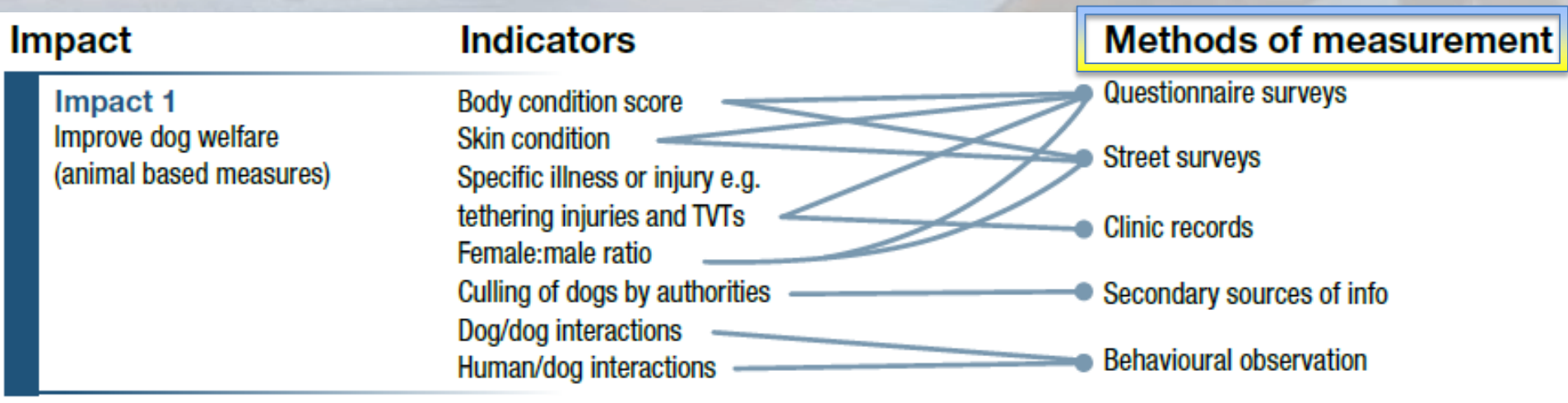
e.g. Dog-dog interactions – *suggested*

Image from www.flickr.com, available under creative commons licence, credited to Nazly Ahmed

Image from www.flickr.com, available under creative commons licence, credited to Godo Godjo

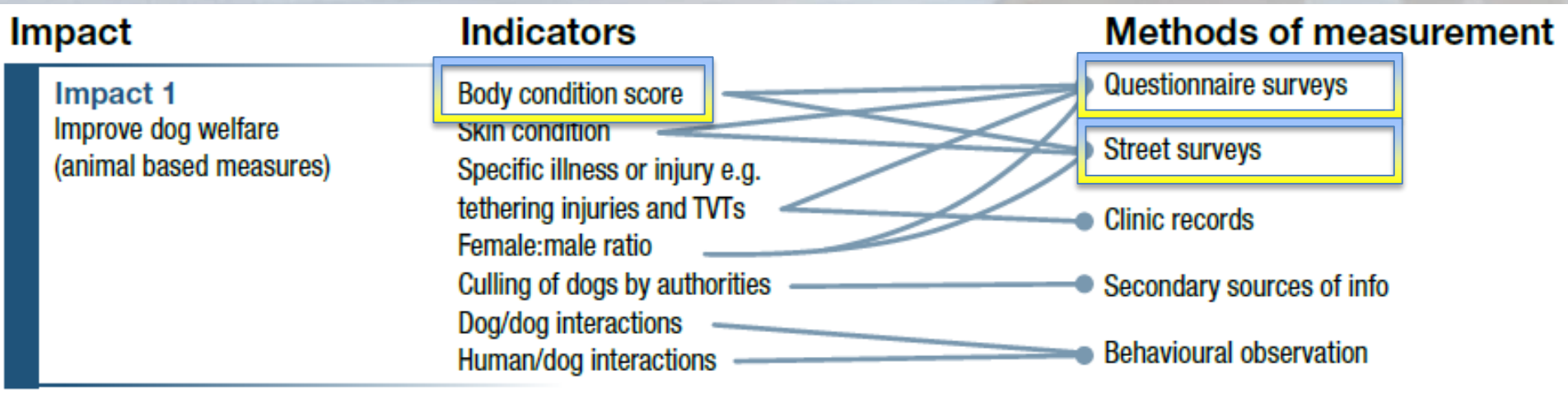
Method of measurement

- **Each indicator is accompanied by at least one suggested method of measurement**

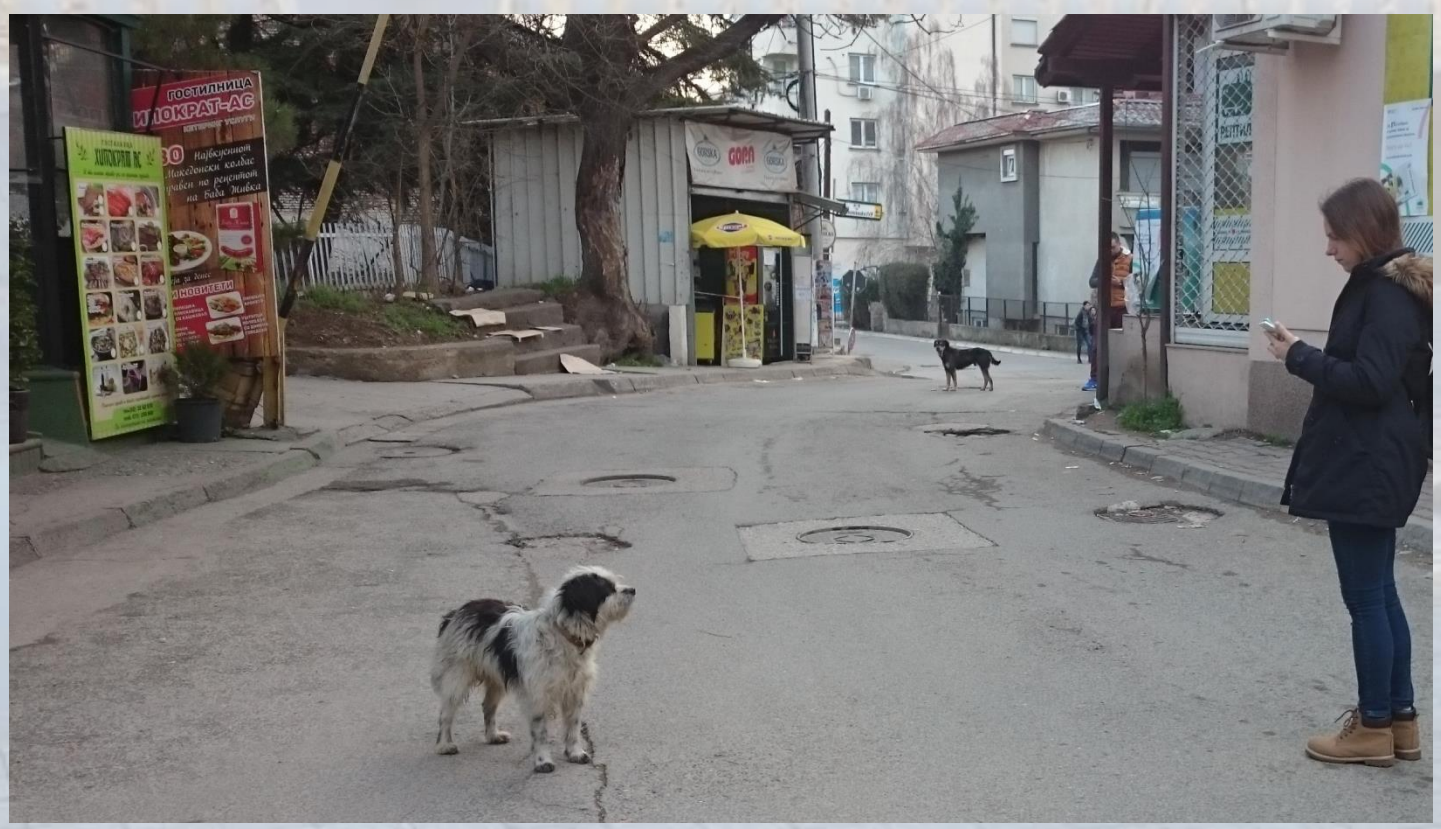


Method of measurement

- **Each indicator is accompanied by guidance for at least one method of measurement**



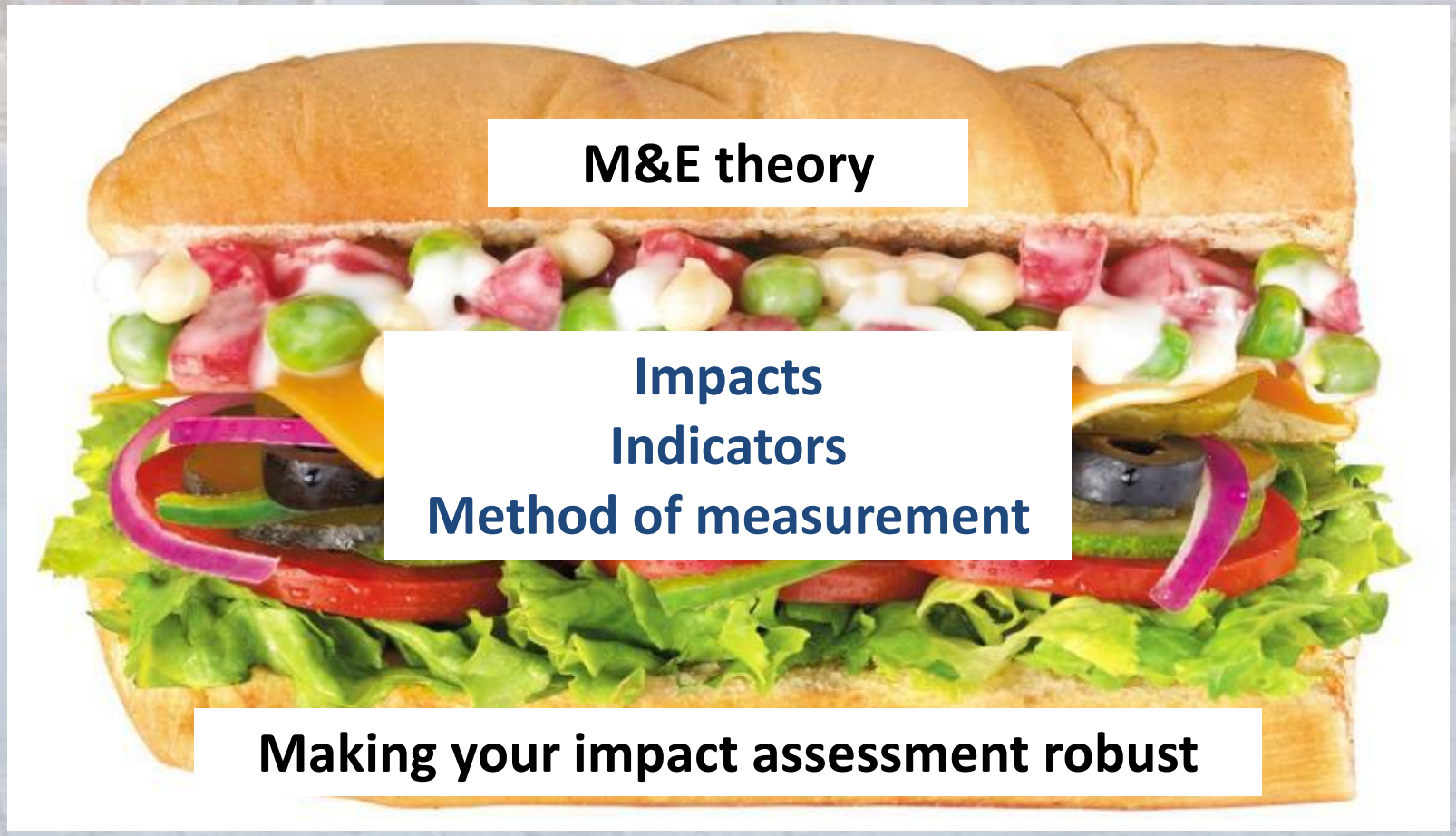
e.g. Street surveys



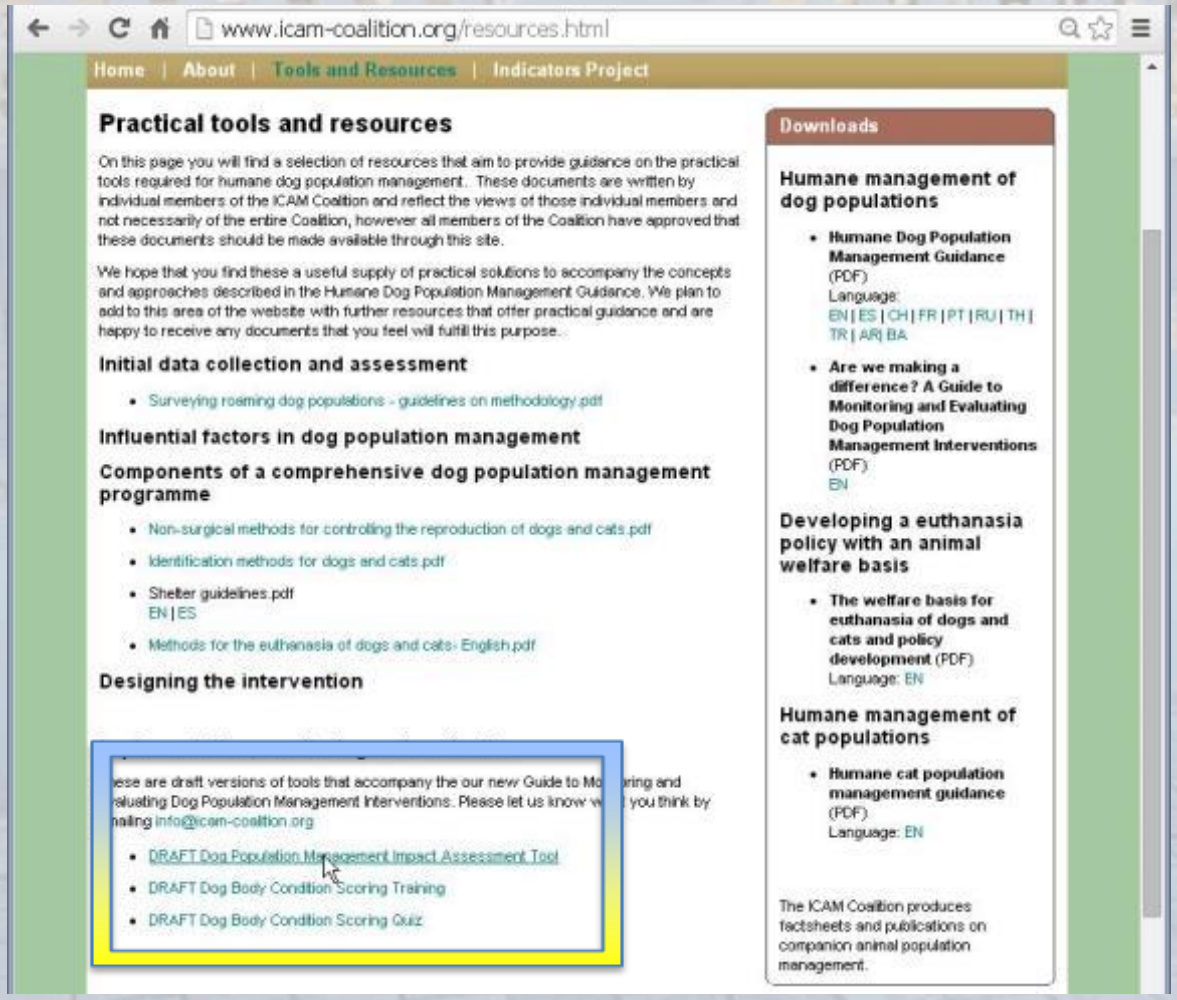
You choose…

Impacts
Indicators
Method of measurement

You choose…


M&E theory
Impacts
Indicators
Method of measurement
Making your impact assessment robust

Navigating the guidance



www.icam-coalition.org

Use our online impact assessment tool

- Sign up as a user
- Choose your impacts
- Series of questions
- → creates guidance.pdf including only impacts, indicators and MoM tailored to your intervention

M&E plan - commitment

Impact	Indicator	Method of measurement	Frequency and baseline	Budget implications	Lead person
Improve welfa re of roaming dogs	% of roaming dog population with body condition score 1 (emaciated) or 2 (thin)	Street survey along 6 standard routes	Bi-annually, Jan and July Baseline measured Jan 2016	2 staff X 12 mornings 5-8am Fuel for car Data analysis = $ 4,000	Colonel Mustard (Community volunteer working on street surveys)

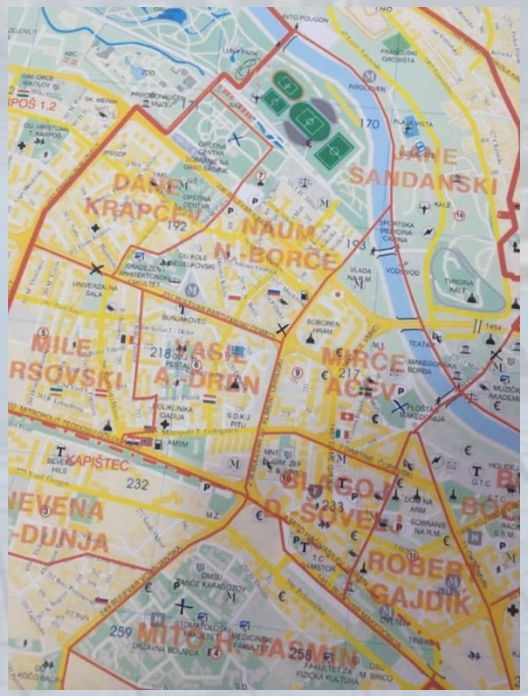
M&E plan - commitment

Impact	Indicator	Method of measurement	Frequency and baseline	Budget implications	Lead person

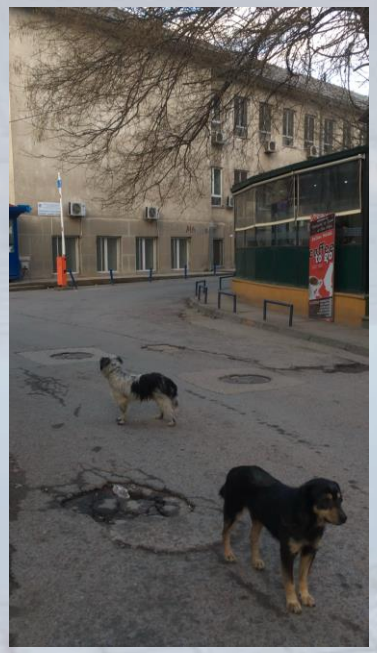
- M&E plan helps make M&E a reality; feeds into action plans, funding proposals, job objectives
- Prioritisation of methods; start with prioritisation of indicators, for all stakeholders
- Commit to ‘evaluation events’

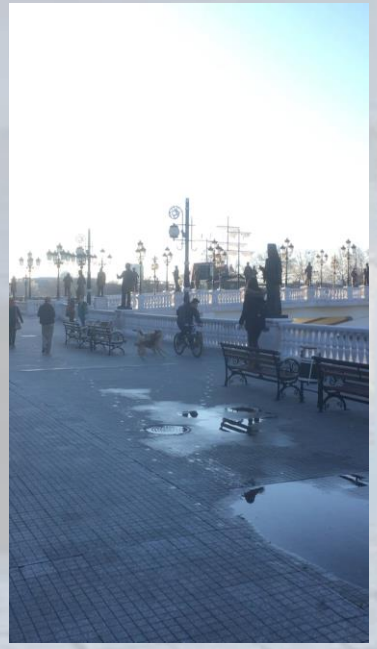
Example – Skopje, Municipality Centar

- Why Skopje?
  - Due to the stray dog problem and very proactive local government.



Mornings in Skopje





Skopje

- Who trained us?
  - Training was conducted by Elly Hibby, PhD, an Independent Animal Welfare Consultant and Scientific Coordinator to the International Companion Animal Management (ICAM) Coalition

P.S. Thanks Elly!

Indicators identification

Step 1

http://www.icam-coalition.org/indicatorsproject.html

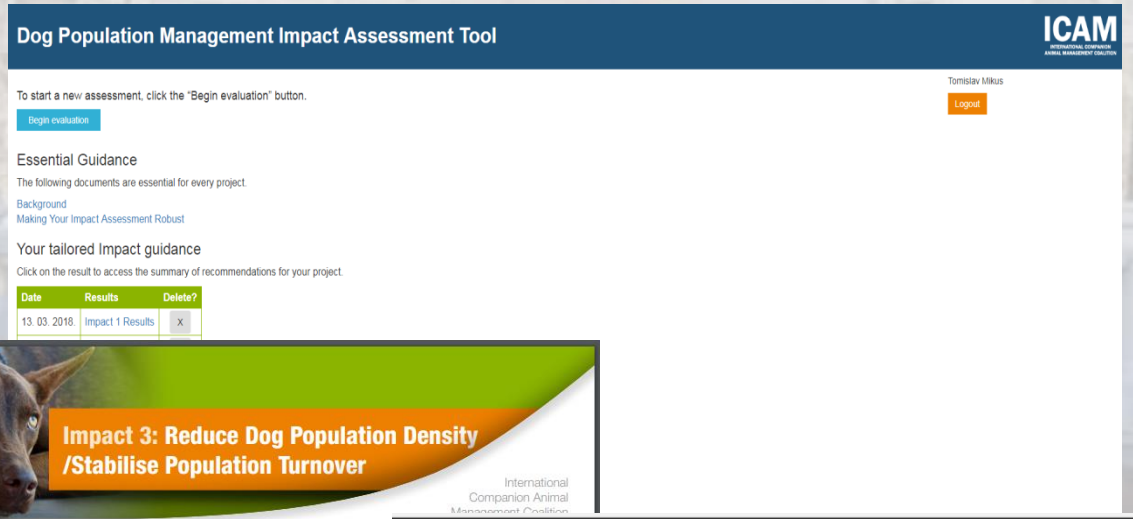
Step 2

Answer the questionnaire

Step 3

Recieve the summary of the recommended Indicators and Methods of Measurements based on your answers.

PDF comes with summary and all detailed explanations of the Indicators and Measures.



Before the streets…

- **<u>Route identification:</u>**

- **Unbiased** (randomly selected streets)
  - Should be planned by somebody who does not know andythign about the abovementioned hot spots.

- **Hot spots** (route with most dogs)
  - Should be planned by somebody who knows where and when dogs are there.

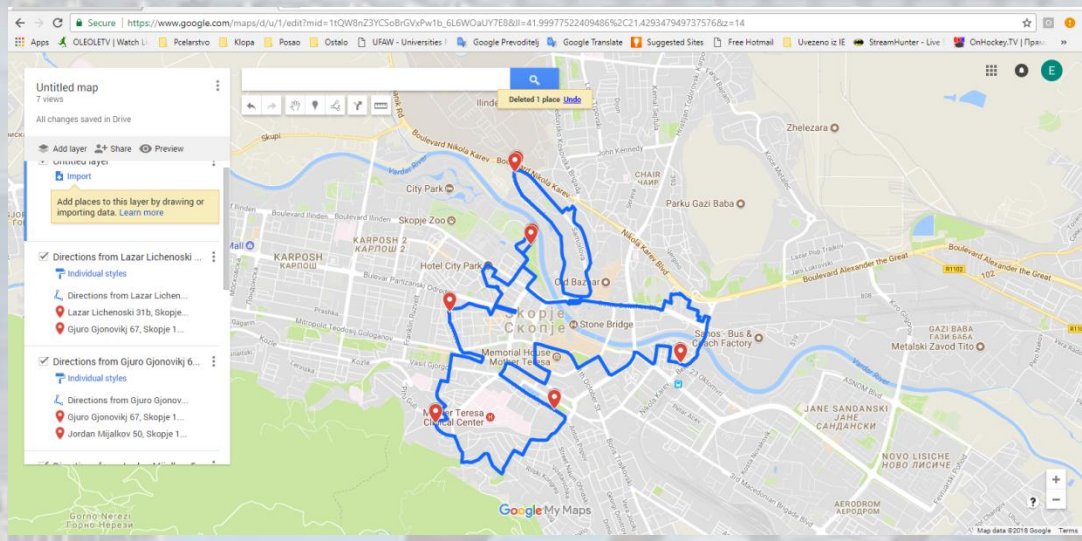
Working groups

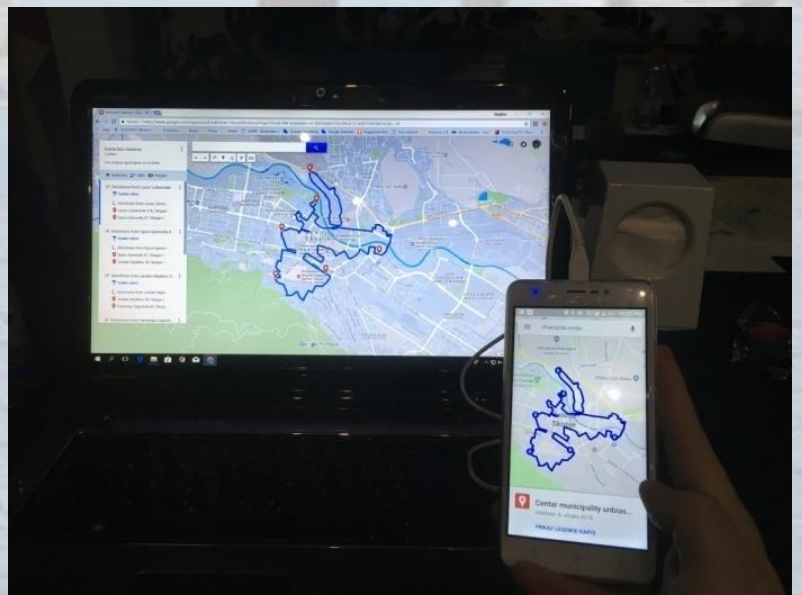
Take 5 minutes to identify unbiased and hot spot route.

Digitalisation

- After the route identification, and due to the accuracy of the each next repetition it was needed to transfer the route to the GPS tracking program.

- In our case – Google Maps





- As long as you always do it in the same way, you can choose what ever type of street survey would you like to do (walking, bicycle, motorcycle, car or combination)
- In our case – the Dogmobile and walking

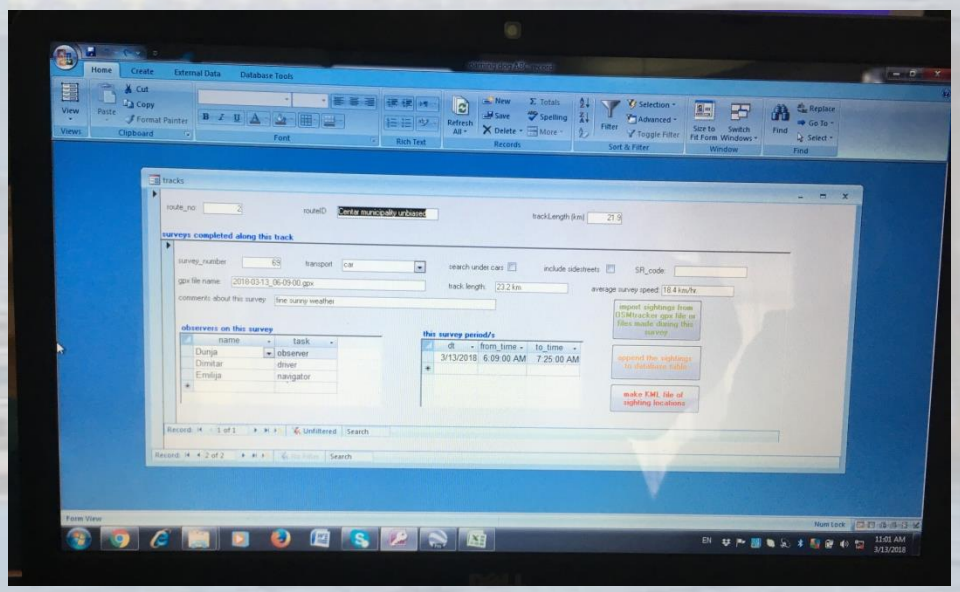
Survey

For dog counting keep in mind that you have to go on the streets before the morning rush starts, because if you go later it will be harder to spot the dogs.

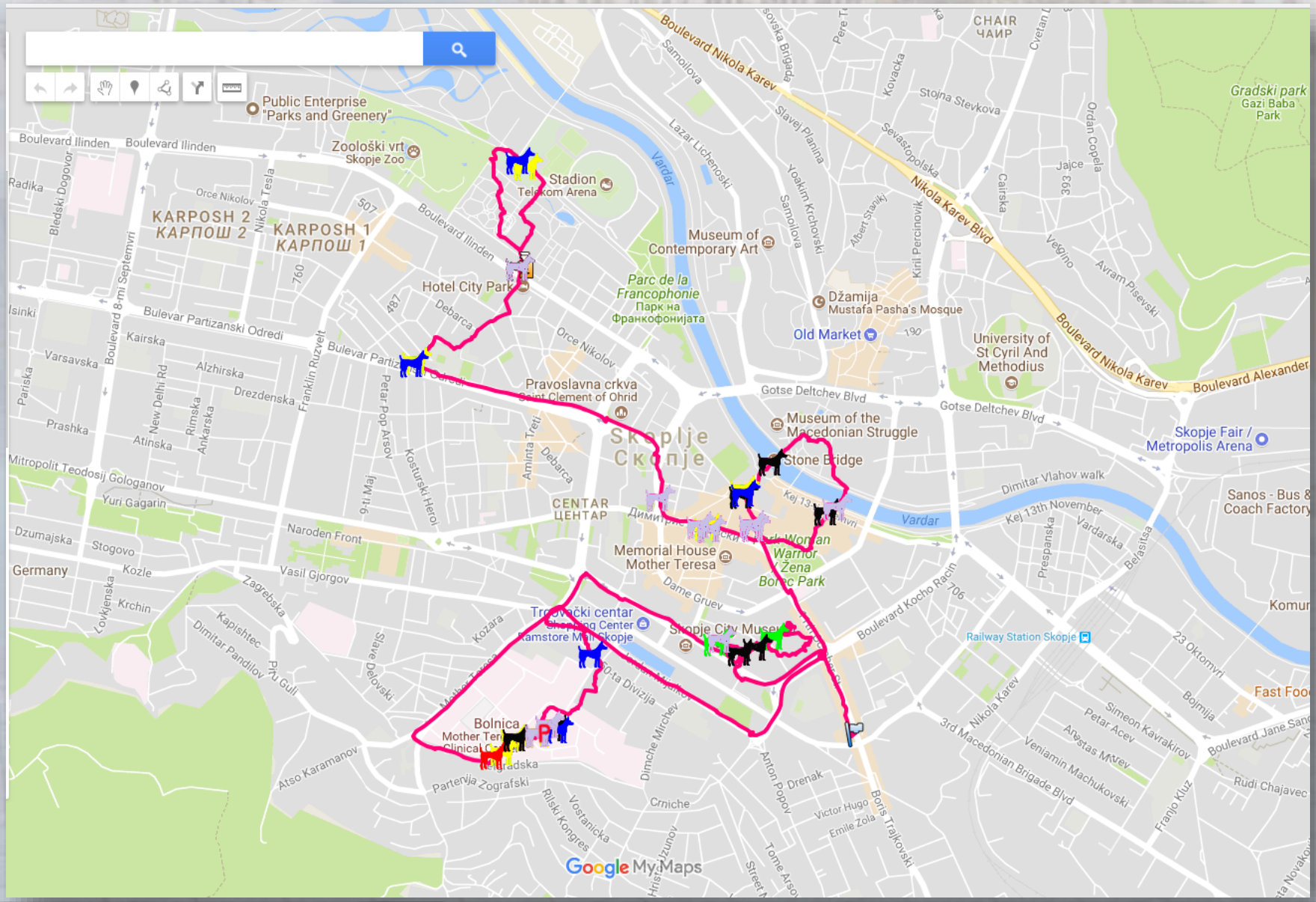
Dogs in Skopje, beeing Balkan dogs, were mostly sleeping at that time.

Data processing

- After the collection, data needs to be evaluated and processed.
- In our case – Microsoft Access form, with preordered formulas for calculation.



Results?



Public Enterprise "Parks and Greenery"
Zoološki vrt Skopje Zoo
Stadion Telekom Arena
Hotel City Park
Museum of Contemporary Art
Parc de la Francophonie Парк на Франкофонијата
Džamija Mustafa Pasha's Mosque
Old Market
University of St Cyril And Methodius
Pravoslavna crkva Saint Clement of Ohrid
Skoplje Скопје
Museum of the Macedonian Struggle
Stone Bridge
Memorial House Mother Teresa
Skopje City Museum
Troovački centar Shopping Center Ramstore Mall Skopje
Bolnica Mother Teresa Clinical Centre
Railway Station Skopje
Skopje Fair / Metropolis Arena
Sanos - Bus & Coach Factory
Gradski park Gazi Baba Park
Vardar
Boulevard Nikola Karev
Nikola Karev Blvd
Boulevard Alexander
Gotse Deltchev Blvd
Boulevard Ilinden
Bulevar Partizanski Odredi
Naroden Front
Vasil Gjorgov
Germany
Google My Maps

Socio-demographic survey

KoBo Collect

- Free program for questionnaire survey.
- Easy to question development, easy to use with a very proactive customer support.

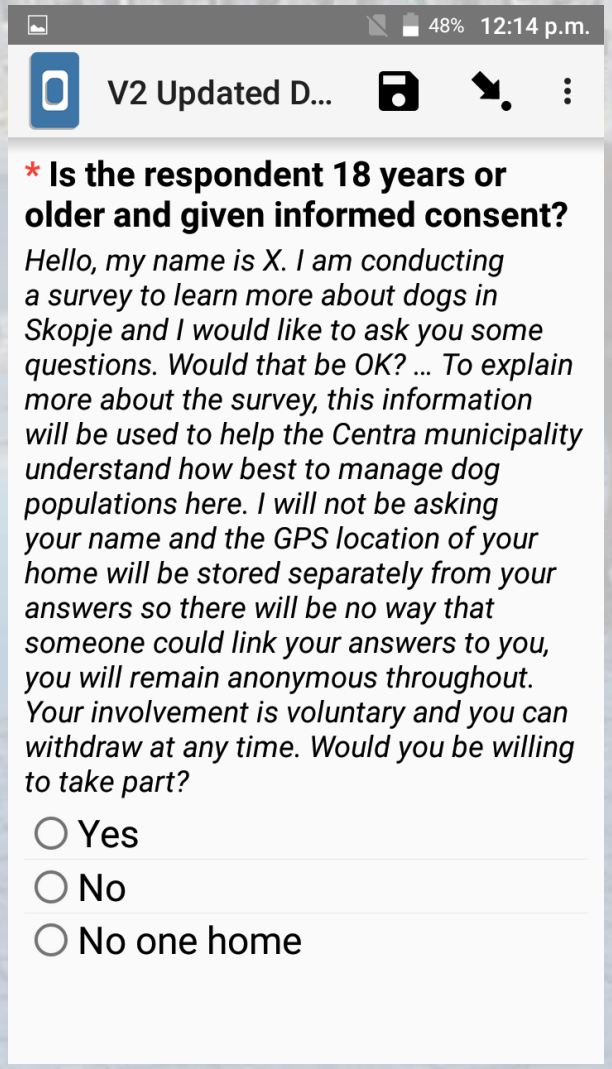
Android phone – one folder

Working groups

Take 15 minutes to identify main questions which you would ask on public survey regarding the problems of stray dogs.

Do not forget – ethics!

- The data we collect, the way in which we collect or use it may cause harm
- Harms may be direct or contingent
- Immediately evident or only apparent in the future
- Graded in severity – mild/moderate/severe

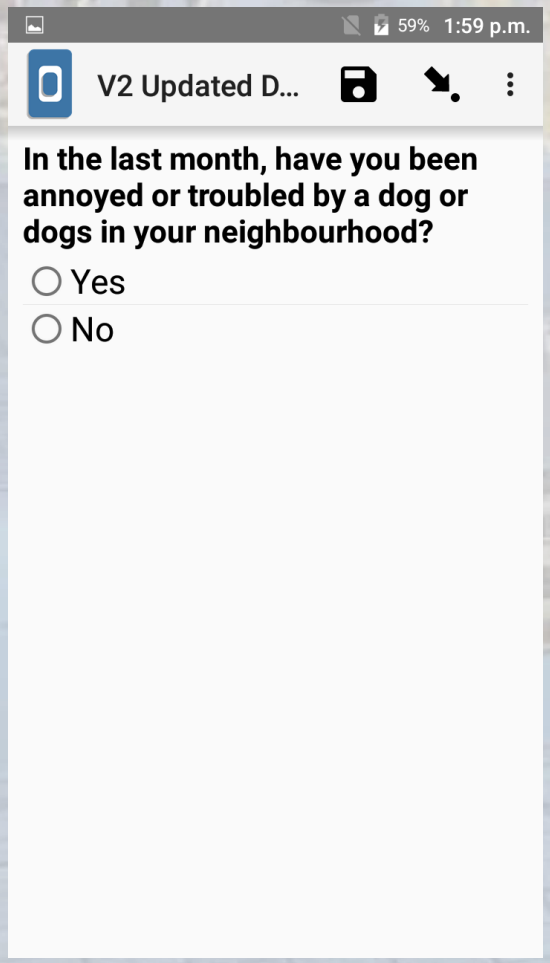


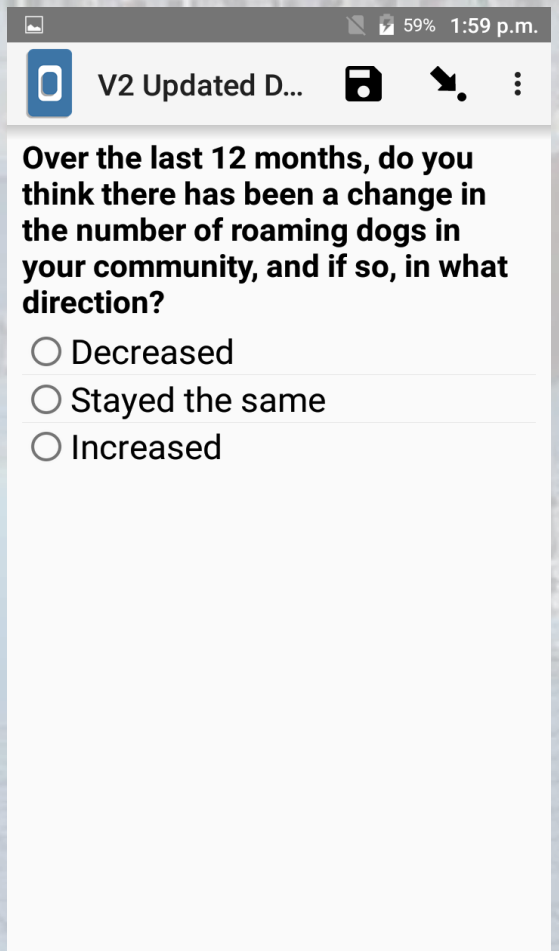
On the field

- When entering properties, backyards or appartments, keep in mind:

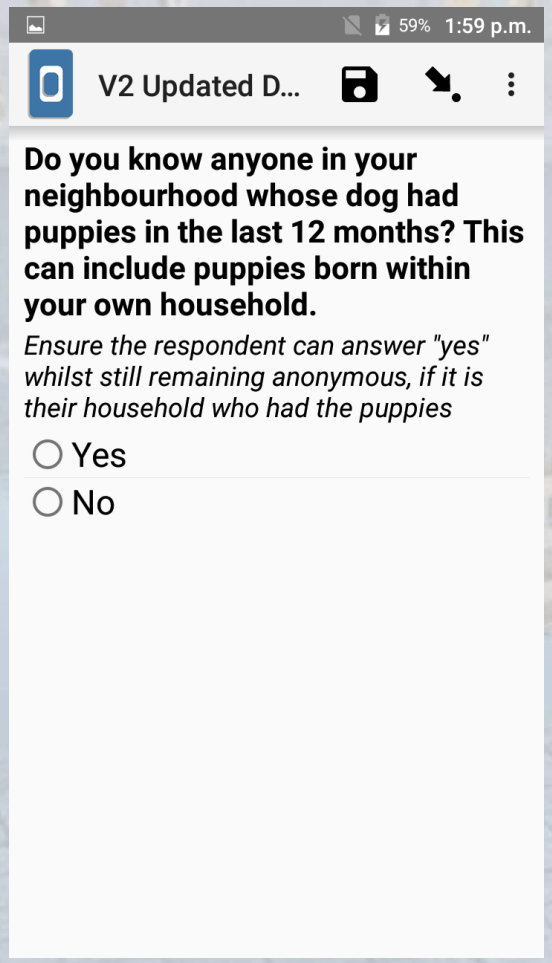
- IF IT'S WIERD – LEAVE.

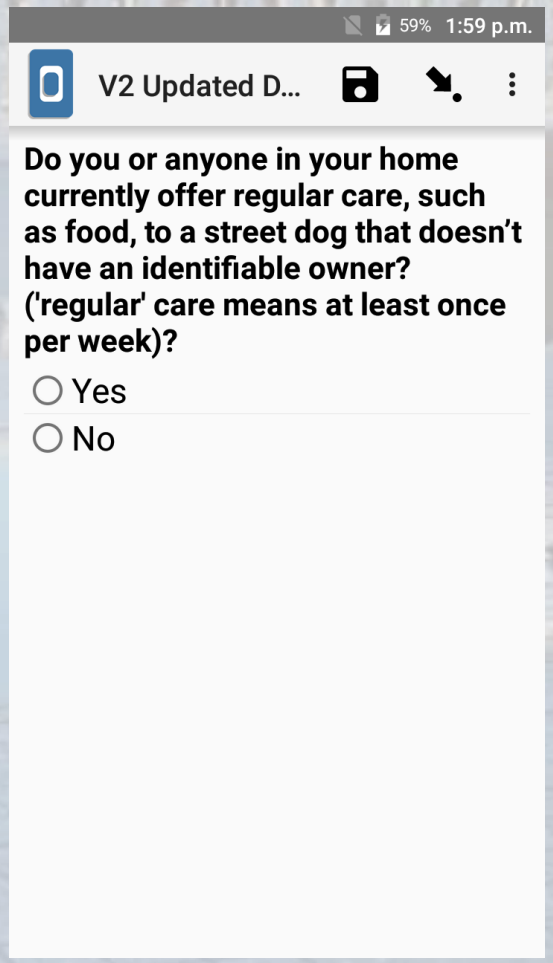
General questions



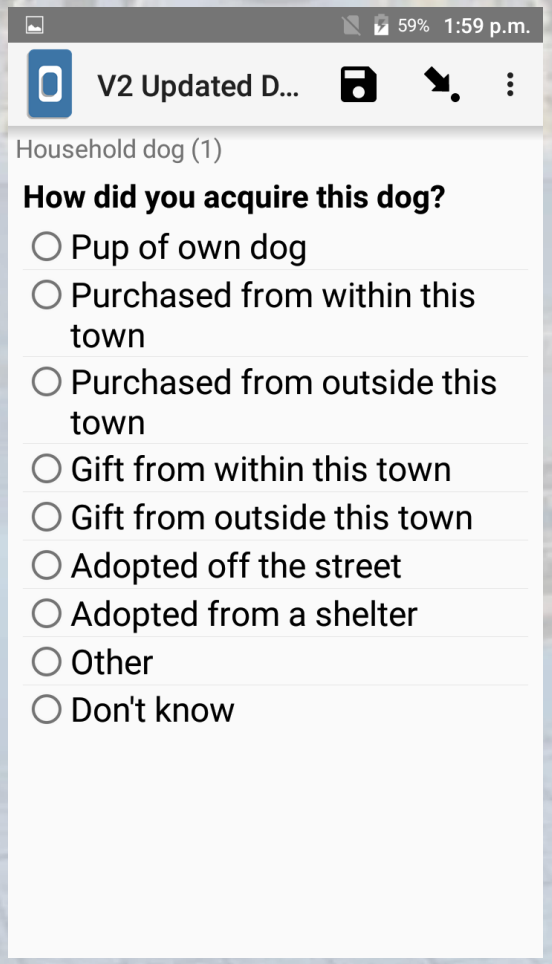


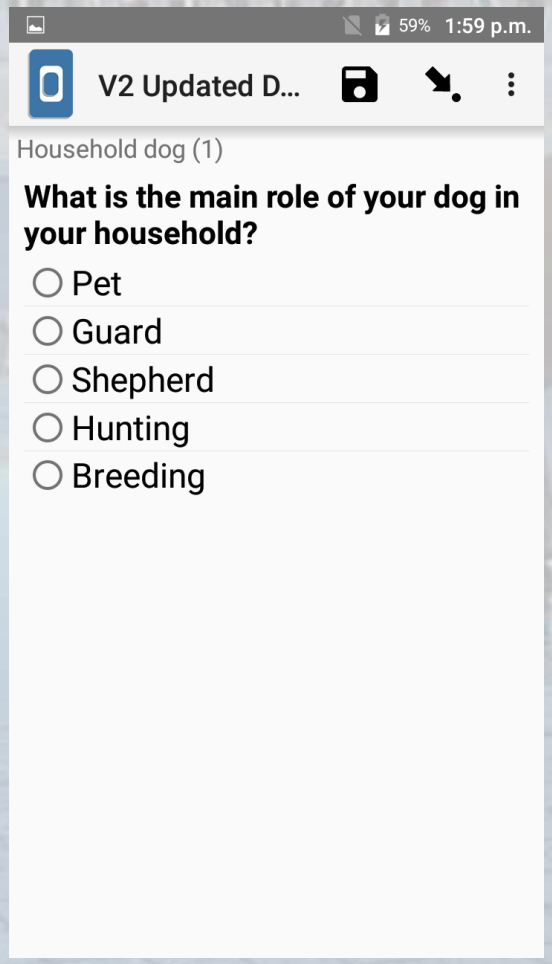
General questions



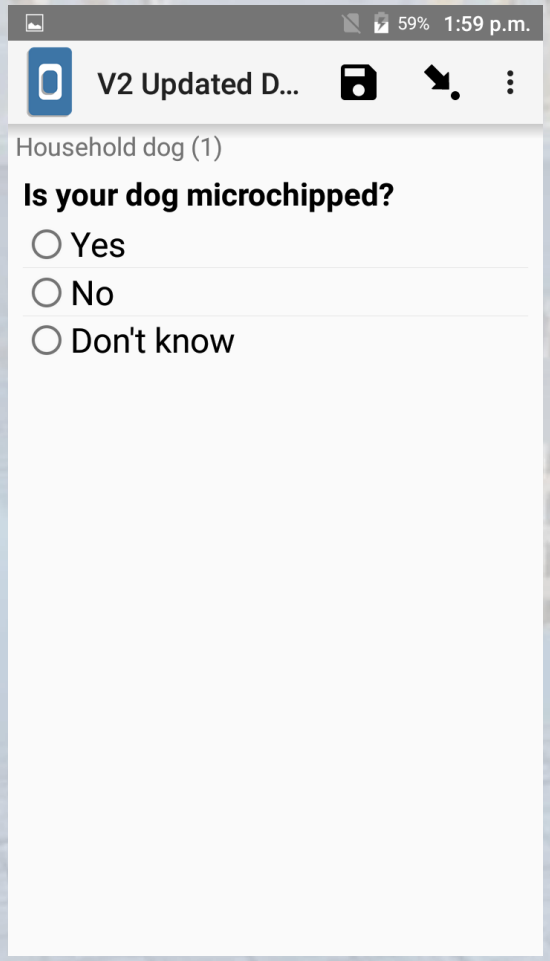


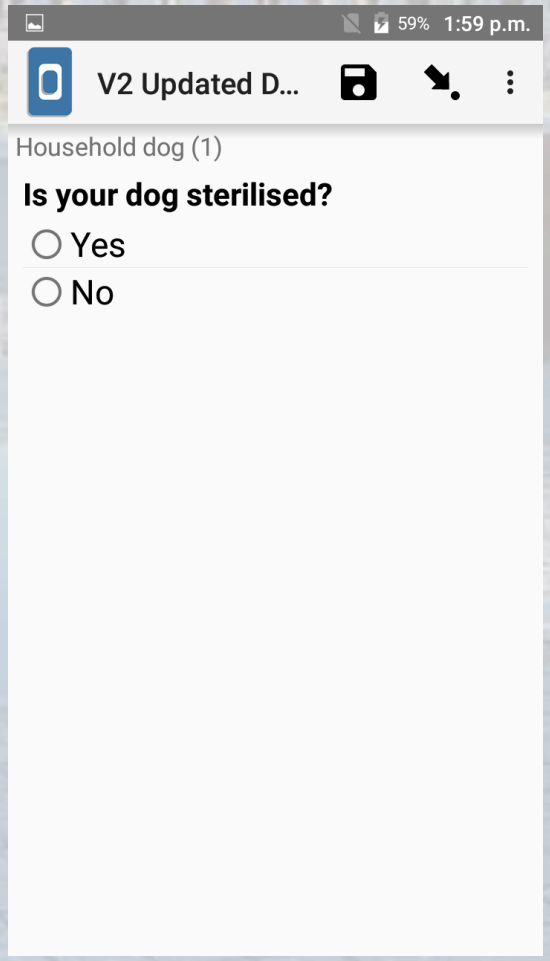
Specific questions



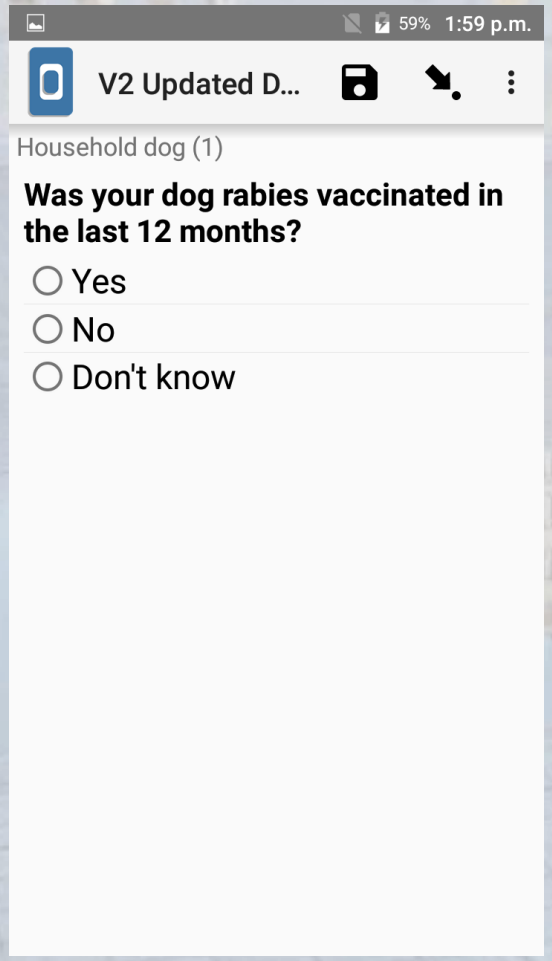


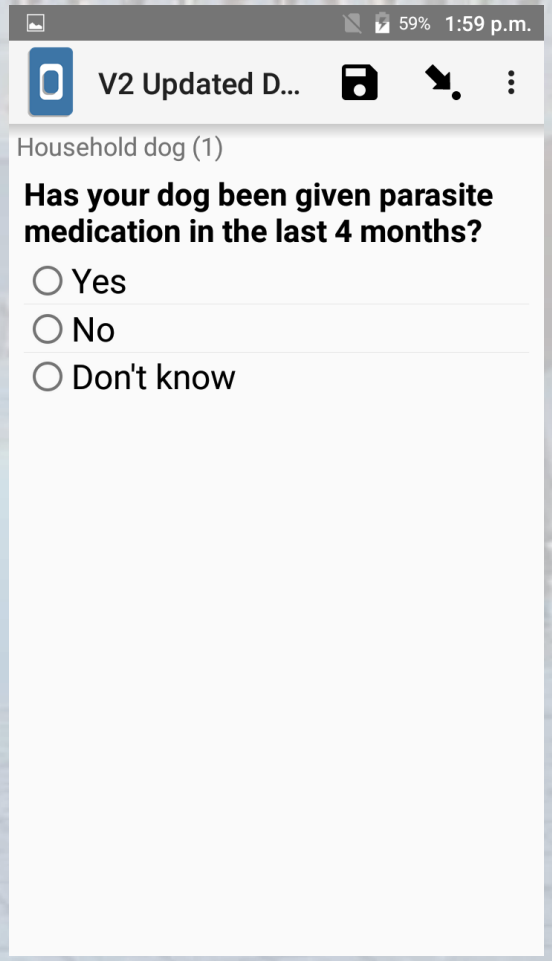
Dog identification and health





Dog identification and health

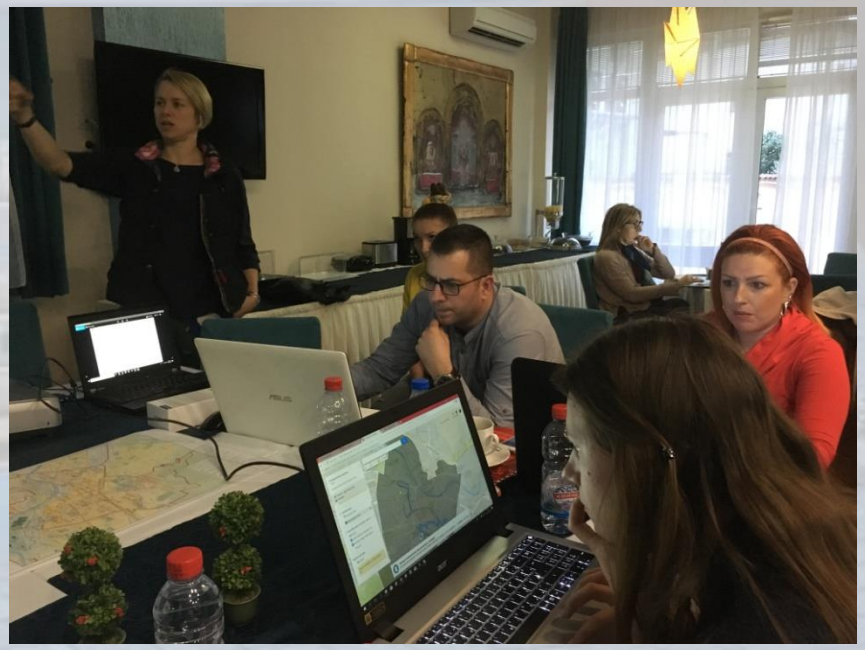




Data processing and results

- Face to face interviews gives us very good look at what is going on in specific area.

- What are the people toughs, and what mindset is on the streets.



- And of course, where are the sources of dogs, and can we count on the local support.

- Dog on the left – Milanče – is a stray dog (yellow tag), but he has some very nice owned friends.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to present our work, hope to see you soon!

Thank you for your attention!

Aleksandra, Dimitar, Dunja, Elly, Emilija, Maruša and Tomislav