



OIE Platform
on Animal Welfare
for Europe

*Improving animal welfare in Europe by Empowering Veterinary Services
to comply with OIE international standards*

First OIE Regional Workshop on Stray Dog population management for West Eurasia countries (SDWE1)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan – 6-8 October 2015

Workshop Report



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Acknowledgment

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) deeply thanks the European Commission, Switzerland and Kyrgyzstan for their significant financial and/or technical support, which was determinant to the success of this First OIE Regional Workshop on stray dog population management for West Eurasia countries held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 6-8 October 2015.

The OIE also acknowledges with great satisfaction the commitment of the West Eurasia countries to embark into a multi-annual process towards the successful management of stray dog population in the sub-region.

* * *



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List of Acronyms

AW	Animal Welfare
DG SANTE	Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
EC	European Commission
ICAM	International Companion Management Coalition
IZSAM	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "Giuseppe Caporale"
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SAM Tool	OIE Self-assessment and Monitoring Tool (for Stray dog population management)
SDWE1	First Workshop on stray dog management for West Eurasia countries
TAHC	Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE
VS	Veterinary Services



Image courtesy: Kyrgyzstan



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Overview and Conclusions

- **Presentation — Story line**

In many countries, and in Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries in particular, *stray dogs pose serious human health, animal health and welfare problems*, such as the transmission of rabies and other zoonotic diseases, pollution (e.g. faeces and noise), biting, traffic accidents and risks to other companion animal species, wildlife and livestock. Effective management of stray dog populations should therefore be considered as a priority, and be an integral component of any rabies control programme.

The OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe, launched in December 2013, identified *stray dog population management as one of the three priority topics* of its Action Plan for 2014-2016, together with the transport by land and slaughter of food producing animals.

Considering (i) the current worrying situation regarding rabies and other dog-mediated zoonoses such as echinococcosis in West Eurasia, (ii) the general lack of awareness on stray dog issues and its rabies dimension, (iii) the need to gain a deep understanding of stray dogs situation in West Eurasia countries, (iv) similarities in the socio-economic, environmental and political impact of stray dogs in the region, and (v) the transboundary (or cross-border) dimension of the issue, the Steering Group of the OIE Platform decided that a regional event on stray dog should be organized as soon as possible. The First OIE regional Seminar on stray dog population management (SDB1) took then place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 6-8 October 2015.

A robust methodology was set up to address the stray dog issue in the long term in the region. The OIE *Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool (SAM tool)*, mirroring the provisions of Chapter 7.7 of the OIE TAHC, will be used to help countries establish their (current) baseline situation in terms of compliance with OIE standards as well as measure progress achieved overtime, thanks to the implementation of dedicated *national Roadmaps*. All national Roadmaps should concur in a shared *Vision for the sub-region*. This methodology is built on the well-established initiative on stray dog population management in the Balkans. It was however adapted to the West Eurasia context; for instance, it was decided to put more emphasis on the rabies entry point given that rabies is endemic in many West Eurasia countries, with limited known control activities.

Seven countries attended the Workshop: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Only Uzbekistan did not attend. Two participants from each country were invited, namely, the nominated OIE National Focal Point for Animal Welfare and a veterinarian, designated by the OIE Delegate, working at the municipal level and in charge of stray dog population control at local level. Invited speakers at the event included the OIE Delegate of Poland, and representatives from France, l'Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (IZSAM Teramo), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), World Animal Protection (WAP), and the OIE (Headquarters, sub-regional Representation in Brussels, regional Representation in Moscow). A representative of the European Commission attended as an observer. WHO, who could not attend the Workshop physically, delivered a presentation on rabies by video. In total, 44 participants attended the workshop.



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The event was co-financed with contributions received from the Swiss Confederation, the European Commission and World Animal Protection as well as from the Hosting country, Kyrgyzstan.

The objective of the SDWE1 workshop was to launch a long-term regional initiative aiming to support countries to become progressively compliant with OIE intergovernmental standards on stray dog population control (Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code). The ultimate goal is to reduce the issues (in magnitude and severity) caused by stray dogs including rabies in humans, while ensuring proper animal welfare conditions for stray dogs.

More specifically, this workshop aimed to:

- Present the provisions of the OIE Chapter 7.7 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on stray dog population control and Chapter 8.13 on Infection with rabies virus;
- Review and discuss existing national control strategies on stray dog population;
- Identify the key weaknesses/constraints/challenges in the implementation of OIE standards;
- Share best practices for the management of stray dogs in the region (the OIE regional initiative on stray dog population management in the Balkans will be presented);
- Become familiar with the OIE stray dog SAM Tool and understand the need to use it on a regular basis to monitor compliance progress overtime.
- Discuss a common Vision at sub-regional level to address the problem of stray dog population control including its rabies component, with the perspective of developing a Roadmap to achieve the Vision at sub-regional level;

The agenda was organized into lectures, country reports, sharing of country best practices and working group sessions. General introductory presentations provided an overview of the OIE achievements on animal welfare, OIE standards on stray dog population control and infection with rabies virus, and the SAM Tool. Countries were then invited to share their experiences and lessons learned in stray dog population control. Discussions also focused on defining key challenges and identifying ways to address these challenges, such as surveying and monitoring the stray dog population, designing modern legislation on stray dogs, controlling rabies in dogs, and using euthanasia as a last recourse. The final session allowed the participants to to brain-storm on a possible common Vision at sub-regional level to sustainably and humanely implement stray dog population control in West Eurasia.

All the presentations and supporting documents will be made available on the website of the OIE platform on Animal Welfare for Europe.

• **Main outcomes and outlook**

The outcomes of the SDWE1 workshop include the following:

1

The countries gained a good understanding of the context and OIE framework for stray dog population management in West Eurasia and globally; in particular, the following key messages were delivered to the country participants:

- Stray dog population management is a multifaceted issue which deals (among others) with animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare; Veterinary Services should have a leading role while collaboration among the different actors is key (in particular between central VS and local municipalities);



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- Strong and modern legislation is a cornerstone to any successful stray dog control programme (notably with a clear definition of responsibilities);
- Stray dog population management is an integral part of rabies control programmes, using a One Health approach (the target is to vaccinate 70% of dogs to eliminate rabies in targeted endemic areas);
- Euthanasia is to be used only when it is in the best interest of the animal and should not be used as a single measure; massive culling of dog populations has proven not sustainable; some killing measures are unacceptable;
- Assessment of national (whole) dog population in urban and rural areas – including the identification of the source of stray dogs - is key to design robust dog population control strategies and programmes;
- Responsible dog ownership can significantly reduce the number of stray dogs and the incidence of zoonotic diseases (identification; vaccination; no abandonment, etc.); in this regard, awareness and education of the main actors and the public at large are considered of paramount importance;
- Stray dog is a common issue to all countries in the region, and can also be considered as a transboundary issue because of the rabies dimension; this militates for a regional approach;
- The Veterinary Services should reinforce their capacity in line with OIE standards on the quality of Veterinary Services, using the OIE PVS Pathway in a voluntary manner, to be able to address among others stray dog population control aspects in a sustainable manner.

2

The 3 Caucasian countries have however demonstrated a higher level of understanding and compliance in dog population management than central Asian countries, and could serve as reference to their neighbors. The involvement of international NGOs such as RSPCA in Georgia and Azerbaijan has notably contributed a lot to improving the sustainable management of dogs in those countries.

3

West Eurasia countries agreed on a shared vision to address stray dog population control in the region: **Countries agreed to complete the Assessment Phase** (section I of the SAM Tool) **by 2020 and to become fully compliant with OIE standard on stray dog population control by 2030** (it was however agreed that this timeline could be revised based on the findings of the assessment phase). The assessment phase will enable the countries to build a robust and sustainable national stray dog control strategy with clear animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare objectives.

4

The countries committed to develop *national Roadmaps*, which will provide a pathway towards achieving the *sub-regional Vision* stated above, based on realistic *activities*, timelines and *indicators*. National Roadmaps will require collaboration and cooperation among all interested parties for their development, implementation and monitoring.

5

The countries strongly supported to have (regional) *SDWE Workshops* under the framework of the OIE Platform on a regular basis, if possible *every two years* (provided funding is available) to review (i) the advancement in the implementation of their national Roadmap; and (ii) the progress achieved in terms of regional Vision.



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6

Countries agreed to pay special attention to the control of rabies (and other dog-mediated zoonoses such as echinococcosis), and notably to implement the outcomes of the OIE-WHO Global Conference on the elimination of dog-mediated rabies to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2015.

7

Availability of *external aid* will be crucial to support the implementation of the future national roadmaps. While the needs will be further refined when using the SAM Tool, the list already includes best practices sharing, trainings, and technical advices. The OIE Platform will explore options to address those needs in collaboration with Partners and stakeholders in the region.

- **Next steps**

The following steps were agreed:

1

[countries] **To establish national baseline** situation for 2016 using the OIE SAM Tool for stray dog control, based on currently available data. The web-based version of the Tool will be available in Russian early 2016; the eight West Eurasia countries will be given six weeks to complete it.

2

[countries] **To establish an advisory group**, which should include veterinarians, experts in dog ecology, dog behaviour and zoonotic diseases, and representatives of relevant stakeholders (local authorities, human health services/authorities, environmental control services/authorities, NGOs and the public), with as main purpose, to analyse and quantify the problem, identify the causes, obtain public opinion on dogs and propose the most effective approaches to use in the short and long term.

3

[countries] **To develop national Stray Dog Roadmaps**, drawn from the baseline situation established through the SAM Tool. Priority activities should include (i) the launching of a stray dogs counting survey throughout the territory; (ii) the identification of the sources of stray dogs; and (iii) a review of the national legal framework on stray dogs with all interested parties.

4

[OIE and partners] **To provide information and capacity building activities** to support the implementation of national Stray Dog Roadmaps according to priorities identified for the sub-region. The OIE Platform will notably stimulate sub-regional dialogue on stray dogs, organize and/or coordinate capacity building activities and post best practises/ material on its website.

5

[OIE] **To organize the SDWE2 Workshop in October 2017** (provided funding is available), to support West Eurasian countries in the implementation of their national Roadmaps and to monitor their implementation and the progressive compliance with OIE standards.



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List of available resources on stray dogs and rabies mentioned during the SDWE1

Dog population management:

- OIE standards on stray dog population control (chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code):
 - [In English](#)
 - [In Russian](#)
- [Humane Dog Population Management Guidance - developed by the International Companion Animal Management Coalition \(ICAM\)](#)
- [A Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Dog Population Management Interventions - developed by the International Companion Animal Management Coalition \(ICAM\)](#)
- [AVMA: Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals](#) (2013 Edition)
- [ICAM: The Welfare Basis For Euthanasia of Dogs and Cats and Policy Development](#)
- [WSPA: Methods for the euthanasia of dogs and cats: comparison and recommendation](#) (currently being update)
- [GARC: Euthanasia of Dogs](#) (Canine Rabies Blueprint)
- [World Animal Protection: Concepts in Animal Welfare](#)

Rabies

- OIE standard on the [Infection with rabies virus](#) (chapter 8.13)
- [OIE disease card on rabies](#)
- [OIE portal on rabies](#)
- [OIE-WHO global conference on the elimination of dog-mediated rabies](#) (in collaboration with FAO and GARC)
- [WHO, FAO, and OIE unite in the fight against rabies](#)
- [OIE infographic on rabies in English; in Russian](#)
- FAO, OIE and WHO [Tripartite Concept Note on health risks at the human-animal interface](#)
- FAO, OIE and WHO [‘Rationale for investing In the global elimination of Dog-mediated human rabies’](#)
- [Rabies Control - Towards Sustainable Prevention at the Source - Compendium of the OIE Global Conference on Rabies Control](#) (Seoul, South Korea, 2011)
- [World Rabies Day, 28 September 2015](#)

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НЕ ДОПУСТИМ НОВЫХ СМЕРТЕЙ ИЗ-ЗА БЕШЕНСТВА

Каждые 10 минут в мире один человек умирает от бешенства. Стороны мы регулярно констатируем этот ужасный факт. Каждый год от бешенства умирает около 70 000 человек, в основном это дети в развивающихся странах. И это полн той, что бешенство может быть побеждено. Если 70-90% случаев бешенства среди людей вызваны укусы зараженных собак, и в отличие от многих других болезней, мы располагаем всеми средствами для искоренения бешенства, а масштабы планетарной угрозы от бешенства являются больше, права бездействовать, допуская больше смертей человека от бешенства.

- Что такое бешенство?
- Каждый год в мире около 70 000 смертей.
- До сих пор 2/3 стран мира страдают от болезни.
- Более 95% случаев бешенства среди людей вызваны укусами собак.

ОКОЛО 100% СЛУЧАЕВ БЕШЕНСТВА СРЕДИ ЛЮДЕЙ МОЖНО ИЗБЕЖАТЬ.

ЛИКВИДИРОВАТЬ СОБАЧЬЕ БЕШЕНСТВО, ЧТОБЫ НЕ ДОПУСТИТЬ СЛУЧАЕВ СРЕДИ ЛЮДЕЙ

- 70% Вакцинировать минимум 70% собак
- \$÷10 Затраты примерно в 10 раз меньше сравнительно с теми, что требуются для профилактики среди людей.

МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЕ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЯЮТ УСИЛИЯ

- ВОЗ OIE FAO Общие действия ВОЗ/OIE/FAO
- Региональные банки вакцины МЭБ
- "Белая книга" борьбы с бешенством

ПРИНЯТЬ ЛИЧНОЕ УЧАСТИЕ

- ПРИМИТЕ УЧАСТИЕ ВО ВСЕМИРНОМ ДНЕ БОРЬБЫ С БЕШЕНСТВОМ
- ПОДЕЛИТЕСЬ ИНФОРМАЦИЕЙ

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NO MORE DEATHS FROM RABIES

Every ten minutes someone in the world dies from rabies. This is the sad reality of the situation even today. Every year, rabies kills nearly 70 000 people, mostly children in developing countries. Over 95% of human cases are caused by the bite of a rabies-infected dog. Yet the disease could be eliminated. Indeed, unlike many other diseases, we already have all the tools needed to eradicate it. Each new victim is therefore one too many.

- What is rabies?
- Nearly 70,000 deaths per year worldwide
- 2/3 of the countries in the world are still affected
- Over 95% of human cases of rabies are due to dog bites

NEARLY 100% OF HUMAN RABIES CASES ARE PREVENTABLE

ERADICATE CANINE RABIES SO THAT NO MORE HUMAN CASES OCCUR

- 70% Vaccinate at least 70% of dogs
- \$÷10 A cost nearly 10 times lower than that of human prophylaxis

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS ARE MOBILISING

- FAO OIE WHO A shared FAO/OIE/WHO commitment
- OIE Regional Vaccine Banks
- The "Blueprint" for rabies prevention and control

YOUR TURN TO GET INVOLVED

- TAKE PART IN THE WORLD RABIES DAY
- SHARE INFORMATION

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Day by day Report

DAY 1 – 6 October 2015 - Chaired by the Delegate of Kyrgyzstan (Dr A. Zushupov)

- **Inauguration and opening**

The Workshop was officially opened by Dr Ashirbai Zushupov, the OIE Delegate and Chief Veterinary Officer of Kyrgyzstan. Dr Zushupov was very pleased to host the SDWE1 as it was the first OIE event ever organized in Kyrgyzstan. He also indicated that (stray) dogs pose significant concerns in Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring countries: the prevalence of echinococcosis - and of rabies to a lesser extent - in dogs is high, approaching 25 % in some rural areas in the region and has a significant impact on human health. Therefore, receiving guidance from international experts and the OIE on their population control was most needed. Dr Zushupov welcomed all participants and encouraged them to have fruitful discussions in the next two and a half days.

Representing the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and in her capacity as Secretary of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe, Dr Nadège Leboucq welcomed the participants on behalf of the OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat. She underlined the importance of the OIE international standards on animal welfare and in particular those for stray dog population control laid down in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 7.7. She reminded the objectives of the Workshop and acknowledged the main financial contribution of the European Commission, Switzerland and Kyrgyzstan.

- **Session 1 – Setting the scene**

- **OIE general presentation (Dr E. Panina / OIE Moscow)**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is an intergovernmental organisation with a mandate from its 180 Member Countries to improve animal health and welfare worldwide. According to the World Trade Organisation, the OIE is the reference standard-setting international organisation. It is responsible for ensuring transparency of the animal disease situation worldwide, including diseases transmissible to humans, for the publication of disease prevention and control methods as well as for safeguarding the sanitary safety of world trade in animals and animal products, and ensuring food safety from their production phase. The OIE is also the sole world organisation for animal welfare and in this field, has developed specific standards on stray dog population control.

The OIE works with the permanent support of 300 Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and 13 Regional and Sub-regional Offices worldwide.

- **OIE achievement on Animal Welfare (Dr L. Stuardo – OIE Headquarters)**

The OIE members mandated the organisation to take the lead internationally on animal welfare by developing scientifically based international standards and to support its member countries for their implementation. Animal Welfare was recognised for first time as a priority in the 3rd OIE Strategic Plan 2001-2005. After a Resolution of World Assembly in 2002 leading to the creation of permanent Working



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Group on AW, the first animal welfare standards were adopted in 2005. Since then, the OIE organised three Global Conferences on AW and elaborated ten animal welfare standards for terrestrial animals (in addition to a general introduction setting all main animal welfare guiding principles) and three for aquatic animals. The OIE is currently developing a new animal welfare chapter on the welfare of working equids and a guiding document for the National Veterinary Services on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.

The OIE is also implementing a rich capacity building program including regular Workshops for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare and the Improved Animal Welfare Program for experts from Veterinary Services. The Implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies is strongly supported by the OIE in order to assist different regions to comply with the OIE standards considering their economic, cultural, religious and other specific aspects. In Europe, Member countries decided firstly to develop an operational Action Plan, keeping the option to develop a regional Strategy at a later stage.

➤ **OIE Platform on Animal Welfare in Europe (Dr N. Leboucq - OIE Brussels)**

The founding principles of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe – a regional mechanism to improve dialogue among countries in the region and build Veterinary Services capacity to take action in the field of animal welfare - were adopted during the 81st OIE General Session in May 2013, taking into account the outcomes of the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe held in Germany in September 2012. The Steering Group of the Platform comprises representatives from OIE Headquarters (Chair), OIE RR and SRR from Europe, European Commission, 3 non EU member countries (Serbia, Russia and Turkey), 2 EU member countries (Ireland and Spain), OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare for Europe (IZSAM in Teramo) and France (representing the donors). The first 3 year Action Plan of the Platform covering 2014-2016 was adopted in December 2013 and then immediately implemented. The ultimate objective of the Action Plan is to ***'improve the animal welfare in Europe by empowering the Veterinary Services to take actions to comply with the OIE Standards on animal welfare'***. The Action Plan, focussing on stray dog control, transport and slaughter of farm animals, comprises a list of key activities that includes: creation of website of the Platform; translation of documents in Russian language; development of sub-regional initiatives on stray dog population control; organisation of awareness campaigns on stray dogs; organisation of Training-the-trainers workshops on slaughter and on long-distance transport; production of a Newsletter ; organisation of meetings of the Steering Group twice a year. The OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe receives the financial support of the European Commission, France, Switzerland, Germany and international NGOs (WAP and RSPCA).

➤ **OIE Animal Welfare Standards on stray dog population control (Dr R. Kolesar - OIE expert)**

In May 2006, the OIE recognised the importance of providing guidance to members on humane methods of stray dog population control and decided to dedicate a specific animal welfare standard to this important topic. In 2009, the Chapter 7.7 on stray dog population control is unanimously adopted. Chapter 7.7 provides comprehensive guidelines and proposes a holistic approach to stray dog control. In the standard, euthanasia of dogs is recognized just as one of the many possible measures for dog population control, to be used in combination with other measures since it is not efficient when used alone. The OIE indeed highlights the importance of controlling dog populations without causing unnecessary animal suffering. The standard also puts the Veterinary Services — in coordination with other competent public institutions and/or agencies — in the fore front in this field given their leading role in preventing zoonotic diseases and



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ensuring animal welfare. Dog population management is considered as an integral part of rabies control programs.

➤ OIE Standard on infection with rabies virus (Chapter 8.13) (L. Stuardo, OIE Headquarters)

Rabies is a major zoonosis caused by neurotropic viruses of the genus *Lyssavirus* in the family *Rhabdoviridae*, and is transmissible to all mammals.

The aim of OIE chapter 8.13 is to mitigate the risk of rabies to human and animal health and to prevent the international spread of the disease. The chapter provides the conditions for a country to self-declare itself free of rabies (rabies is not a disease with an OIE free status), conditions that are linked to the country notification, surveillance and control systems. An imported human case of rabies does not affect the rabies free status. The chapter also indicates the recommendations for the importation of animals and animal products from rabies free countries and from countries considered infected with rabies. Finally, an article of the chapter is specifically dedicated to the control of rabies in dogs by the Veterinary Authorities, with a view to minimising public health risks due to rabies, and eventually eradicating rabies in dogs. As part of the control measures, a programme for the management of stray dog populations consistent with Chapter 7.7. should be implemented and maintained.

➤ WHO presentation on rabies in Central Asia (WHO – video)

WHO list of neglected tropical diseases comprises 70 diseases (of parasitic, viral and bacterial nature), some of which are zoonotic, one of them being rabies. Rabies is a viral disease that infects the central nervous system and ultimately leads to the death of people and animals. The infection causes tens of thousands of deaths every year, mostly in Asia and Africa. Every ten minutes someone in the world dies from rabies and four out of every ten people who have been bitten by suspect rabid animals are under the age of 15. Most of cases are transmitted through bites of dogs.

Yet, this disease can be prevented and managed. The World Health Organisation (WHO) considers the freedom from dog-mediated rabies as a global public good.

Immediate wound cleansing with soap and water after contact with a suspect rabid animal can be life-saving. Dog vaccination is however the most cost-effective single intervention to protect humans from contracting rabies. High quality vaccines are available. Vaccine coverage needs to reach at least 70% of

RABIES: THE FACTS World Health Organization

VIRUS TRANSMISSION
Saliva of infected animals
99% of human cases are caused by **dog bites**
The virus attacks the brain
Rabies is **fatal** once symptoms appear

FATALITIES
Rabies affects **poor rural communities** mostly in Asia and Africa
About **One death every 15 mins**
40% of the victims are children younger than 15

TREATMENT
Thorough washing of the wound with soap, and, vaccine injections can avoid symptoms and **save lives**.
Seek immediate medical care if bitten.

HOW TO PREVENT RABIES TRANSMISSION FROM DOGS?
Learn **dog body language**
Raise public **awareness**
NO DOG BITE = NO RABIES

VACCINATING DOGS SAVES HUMAN LIVES
Rabies is **100% preventable**
Vaccinating **70%** of dogs **breaks rabies transmission cycle** in an area at risk
Every dog owner is concerned

28 September • **World Rabies Day** • **#rabies**



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the canine population to break transmission from dogs to humans. In this case, not enough hosts remain for the virus to propagate and rabies will naturally fade out.

Safe, effective human vaccines are also available as pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis vaccines. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is a series of vaccines provided to people bitten by rabid animals including bats in order to prevent the disease from developing. Education such as teaching children about right behaviour and ability to read the body language of dogs is also very important.

WHO response: WHO raises awareness about rabies across the world by providing education and awareness material, notably on World Rabies Days on every 28 September, using the internet and social media (the infographic below was produced for 2015 World Rabies Day)

Rabies, a zoonotic disease, requires close co-ordination between animal and human health sectors ('One Health') at the national, regional and continental levels.

To advocate for the issue and motivate policy-makers to engage into rabies control and elimination, WHO, OIE and FAO jointly produced in 2015 an Advocacy Document entitled 'Rationale for investing In the global elimination of Dog-mediated human rabies' that provides the following four rationales:

- Rationale 1: Rabies is a major public health problem that disproportionately burdens poor rural communities
- Rationale 2: Rabies is preventable yet continues to kill
- Rationale 3: Dog-mediated human rabies can be eliminated by vaccinating dogs
- Rationale 4: Rabies elimination is feasible

Proof of concept projects led by WHO recently showed that a decrease in human rabies is possible through a combination of interventions involving dog vaccination, improved access to PEP, and increased surveillance and public awareness raising.

Stockpiles of dog and human rabies vaccine have had a catalytic effect on rabies elimination efforts. WHO is working to assemble forecasts on the supply of human and dog vaccines and the need for rabies immunoglobulin, to understand the global manufacturing capacity and to explore bulk purchasing options for countries through WHO/UNICEF (human vaccine) and OIE/WHO (animal vaccine) mechanisms.

Finally, WHO assists the Ministries of Health (WHO first 'focal points' in countries) to reinforce their reporting systems. The need for reliable data is indispensable to demonstrate the burden of the disease, the impact on the population, the need for access to health care and vaccines, and successes in combatting rabies.

➤ **OIE regional initiative on stray dog population control in the Balkans (N. Leboucq, OIE Brussels)**

As part of the OIE Platform on animal welfare for Europe first Action Plan, OIE organised a regional workshop (SDB1) on stray dog population control for eleven Balkan countries in Bucharest, Romania in June 2014. The objective of the SDB1 was to launch a regional initiative that will eventually lead to the full compliance of countries with OIE standard on stray dog population control (chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code). Countries agreed that such compliance will be achieved by 2025. To assist the Balkan countries to meet this Vision, OIE will conduct a series of assessment and capacity building activities that include (i) self-assessment by countries – using the OIE self-assessment and monitoring tool - in 2015 to define a baseline situation and then every 2 years to measure compliance progress overtime; (ii) an awareness campaign on stray dog population control; (iii) distribution of knowledge through regional



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workshops (SDB2; SDB3) and OIE regional Focal Point seminars; and (iv) coordination of regional financial and technical partners to develop synergies and resource pooling in the region. The OIE platform website also include an e-depository of stray dog resources for countries.

➤ **Presentation of the Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool for stray dog population control (B. Alessandrini - IZSAM Teramo)**

The leading role of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale “G. Caporale” in Teramo, Italy as an OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare was underlined. A short overview of on-going projects (e.g., CALLISTO, Caro Dog, Caro Cat and others), scientific and practical achievements in the field of stray dog population control were presented. The OIE Self-Assessment & Monitoring Tool (SAM Tool), jointly developed by OIE and IZSAM Teramo, was presented in depth. The tool strongly reflects Chapter 7.7 on stray dog population control of the TAHC and includes 4 following sections: (i) understanding the situation; (ii) control measures; (iii) monitoring and evaluation and (iv) conclusions and future needs. At the end of each section, the level of compliance of the country with the OIE Chapter 7.7 can be estimated, having three options: (i) non-compliance; (ii) partial compliance; and (iii) full compliance. The aim of the SAM Tool is to set up the baseline situation at national level and measure progress achieved overtime.

• **Session 2 – Country reports**

➤ **General Overview**

The session provided a better understanding of the complexity of stray dog population control in each of the seven participating West Eurasian countries. The majority of countries reported trends of increasing of stray dog population, with concerning consequences for human health (rabies, echinococcosis, bites). In most of the countries, rabies is present in wild life, stray and domestic animals, including dogs. Several countries identified abandoned owned dogs as the main source of stray dogs. The session on country presentation initiated broad discussion and showed that the whole group of countries, despite their different level of compliance with the relevant OIE Standards, is facing similar challenges and welcomes external aid and cooperation to address them.

➤ **Country report of Armenia (Dr Anahit Arzumanyan)**



Rabies situation is favourable in Armenia: the last case of Rabies was reported in ‘Shirakskom marze’ in 2011 in stray dog. A legal basis exists for the control of rabies in animals (*order of the Director from 12.06.2014, N559-H*). A program catch-neuter-release is in place with the support of specific private companies (Junigraph Ix), and released neutered animals receive a red collar. In 2014, the company neutered 5350 stray dogs and 1753 in 2015 (until 10th September). NGOs, only operating thanks to donations and volunteer activities, are also very active in organizing charity events to support dog population management activities. The NGO DINGO is notably handling shelters with stray dogs, for adoption. They work with private clinics to ensure the health of these animals. A telephone line also made available to citizens to report on any events related to stray dogs.



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A national strategy / programme for dog population management is needed to ensure that all stakeholders work in a coordinated and harmonized way. Donor support will be needed for its implementation.

➤ Country report of Azerbaijan (Dr Eldar Hasanov)



Stray dogs, whose population has increased over the past years (herds), pose growing problems in Azerbaijan: the amount of attacks of stray animals, diseases in humans, cases of rabies of farm and domestic animals has increased. During the period of 2010 – 2014 about 219 rabies cases were reported. Majority of rabies cases in animal are registered in Absheron peninsula and Sheki-Belokanskoyu zone. Laboratory results show that rabies cases are confirmed in majority in dogs (almost 50%), then in large ruminants (34%). While stray dogs are considered as the main reservoir of rabies, rabies however also exists in wild life (wolf, fox, jackal). Consequently, vaccinations of dogs are increasing every year: in 2014, about 250 000 dogs were vaccinated against 180 000 in 2014. In humans, post-exposure treatment have also increased and since 2005, 100% exposed people receive appropriate treatment, due to better awareness and supply of rabies vaccines in medical centers.

A series of legal texts allows the proper control of stray dogs, from central to local level (law on veterinary activities ; law on protection of the population ; municipal regulations and programs related to stray dogs; requirements for shelters). A pilot project for oral vaccination of carnivores in Absheron peninsula and Sheki-Zakatal'sky regions was implemented and a comprehensive 2015-2010 plan for the prevention and control of rabies was developed. This plan notably foresees the mass vaccination of dogs (the target is to reach at least 70% of dogs; special weapons and anaesthetic medicaments are used), partners coordination for the control of rabies, effective control of stray dog population in the respect of animal welfare conditions (shelters; neutering; dog owners awareness campaign), identification and registration of animals. This plan is funded on state budget. Awareness activities on rabies are already conducted in Kahsky rayon.

Recommendations for the future include the development of additional shelters for stray dogs, the control of rabies in wild carnivores, through notably oral vaccination (with post-vaccination monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme).

➤ Country report of Georgia (Dr Tsira Napetvaridze)



There is a clear delineation of responsibilities among the central veterinary authority and local municipalities. The national surveillance, prevention and control of dangerous diseases are dealt by the central Veterinary Authority, while the management of stray dogs – in the respect of animal welfare - clearly falls under the responsibilities of municipalities, who work in most cases with NGOs. The Central Veterinary Authorities however brings support to municipalities in terms of quarantine, burial areas and crematoria of animals as well as for the development of rules for keeping and transporting domestic animals (pets). The Central Veterinary Authority also developed a plan for rabies control in domestic animals 2014-2018, which includes the vaccination of animals kept in municipal shelters.



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Currently, it is difficult to assess the number of domestic and stray dogs in the absence of registration of animals (lack of database). 250 000 owned dogs and cats are vaccinated annually (rabies) and ten shelters are operating, with 11 000 dogs and cats collected every year.

The stray dog population has increased over the past year, mainly due to inadequate management by their initial owners (who notably abandon the unwanted puppies). These animals tend to migrate from villages to cities where the conditions for survival are more favourable. Domestic pets are nonetheless considered as family members with full rights. A national strategy for control of stray animals was developed by the central veterinary authority, with the collaboration of the National Food Safety Agency, Ministry of health, ministry of environment and NGOs. The strategy includes provisions for the catch-neuter-release of dogs, the vaccination against rabies. Euthanasia is practised only very specific cases when the animal is too old, traumatized or heavily sick. Control, monitoring and evaluation of stray animals population is a responsibility of local municipality services.

There are several challenges to dog population management (including its rabies component) in Georgia: low level of knowledge of the population on rabies; low level of responsibilities related to animals; only 5% of the dogs and cats were vaccinated by the owners on their own initiative – while vaccination services are easily accessible for more than 90% of dogs and cats); insufficient data to understand the spread of rabies among stray and wild animals; lack of shelters capacity at municipal level; insufficient financial, physical and human resources to address the problem.

One priority is to develop a modern legislation on animal welfare; external assistance would be welcome in that regard.

➤ Country report of Kazakhstan (Dr Tursyn Kabduldanov)



In Kazakhstan, stray dogs pose serious problems, in particular in large cities. Their population has increased over the past years, and the population of stray dogs in Almaty is estimated to be 35 000. Dog abandonment is one of the main sources of stray dogs. A decree from the Ministry of Agriculture issued in 2013 is specifically dedicated to stray dog population control and has provisions for the vaccination of dogs, their monitoring and capture. The capture of stray dogs is carried out in a humane manner by private companies which are selected on a competitive basis. A shelter is in place in Almaty, does rehoming and dog sterilisation and identification. Euthanasia is limited to old and sick animals. The decree creates responsibilities to dog owners and sanctions are provisioned in case of non-application. The situation is monitored on a weekly basis; a hot line is in place to signal any issue with stray dogs.

In 2015, new private veterinary clinics have been established; they receive state budget to conduct dog vaccination against rabies. Passports are also issued to new owners. Dog identification (microchip) is mandatory and is at the expenses of the dog owners. Animal breeders are licensed by local authorities.

➤ Country report of Kyrgyzstan (Dr Muratbek Ismailov)



I. Understanding of the situation (slide 1)

The problem with stray dogs is recurrent in Kyrgyzstan. All attempts from the authorities to jugulate this issue appear to be without result. According to the statistic, dog population in Kyrgyzstan is about 530 000



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including 50 000 to 60 000 stray dogs. The main source of stray dogs in Kyrgyzstan is the abandonment of dogs and their offsprings by irresponsible owners.

Under the **'Livestock market development project' (LMDP-1)**, financed by the IFAD and implemented by the Agricultural Projects Implementation Unit (APIU) at Ministry of agriculture of Kyrgyzstan, several activities for dog population management activities are carried out, involving various actors. Under this project, priority is given to the prevention and control of echinococcosis (strategic plan for the control of echinococcosis), and to a less extent, of rabies. Activities include the laboratory testing, development of a dog passport (more than 400 000 dog passports are issued), tattooing of dogs and the development of a central database for their registration. These activities are supported by a law on animal identification, registration and movement control. Vaccination and deworming of dogs (Praziquantel) are also important activities. Annually more than 400 000 dogs are vaccinated against rabies and more than 2 million deworming against Echinococcosis are performed (500 000 tablets x 4 times a year). More than 50 000 stray dogs are shot on annual basis, under the responsibilities of local governments / municipalities (euthanasia is conducted in few cases only). They also approve and implement local measures against echinococcosis. The Kyrgyz Veterinary Chamber develops training and awareness material, and conducts trainings throughout the territory (42 rayons) for public and private stakeholders 51467 personnel trained in 2014-2015) involved in dog population management. The Ministry of Health also conducts awareness, training and communication activities on echinococcosis at village level (1418 villages informed). The Kyrgyz scientific and research veterinary institute takes samples and carries out laboratory test, in support of the Veterinary authority. NGOs ('gentle hands' and 'right to life of homeless animals') are dealing with catching stray dogs and cats, sterilization and giving animals in good hands.

➤ Country report of Tajikistan (Dr Ismoil Andamov)



In Tajikistan, approx. 90 cases of rabies are reported yearly in animals. Rabies also exist in wild life with 8 cases reported in 2015 (mainly in jackals, at the border with China). In 2014, 4 rabies cases were reported in humans (4 deaths). A joint plan between the Ministries of Health and of Agriculture is in place to address rabies. 82 000 vaccines were provided in the most at-risk areas. Preventive and post-exposure treatments are provided free of charge by the state. No specific information is available for echinococcosis. The number of stray dogs is unknown, even in Dushanbe. Local authorities are in charge of stray dog population control. They capture and conduct massive culling of dogs. In addition, several actions are conducted for the removal of favourable conditions for stray dogs (waste management notably). 1000 persons are bitten by stray dogs every year. In the five largest cities of Tajikistan, identification and registration of dogs is compulsory by dog owners (passport).

➤ Country report of Turkmenistan (Dr Arslan Soltanmyradov)



Activities of the State Veterinary Services of Turkmenistan are laid down by the law on veterinary activities developed by experts from the State Veterinary Services and adopted by the Parliament (Medjilis) of Turkmenistan with first amendment in June 1996 and second amendment in November 2014. It was adopted also a Regulation on the State Veterinary Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of



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Turkmenistan, which is currently operational. Under this regulatory framework, the following dog population management activities are conducted both by veterinary and municipal services, including its rabies component as Turkmenistan pays serious attention to the diseases transmitted from animals to humans (zoonoses): a plan to control rabies in dogs was developed for the period covering 2015-2016; at municipal level, operational centers for rabies rapid response and management were created; dog vaccination against rabies is conducted, as well as issuance of dog passport; 130 000 doses of Biocan rabies vaccines (inactivated vaccines for dogs) was imported from the Czech Republic in 2015. Dog catching and shooting is organised by municipal services (approx. 60 000 are shot annually).

Future needs include the construction of special shelters at regional level for temporary keeping (sterilization) of stray dogs. There is a need to decrease the stray dog population in the whole country.

DAY 2 – 7 October 2015 - Chaired by OIE (Dr L. Stuardo)

• Session 3 – Identification of key challenges

➤ Working Group Session – Identification of key challenges (working groups)

Following the discussions held during the country reports and working group sessions, countries agreed on the following list of key challenges that hamper the proper control of stray dog populations:

- Insufficient data collected and demographic surveys conducted to understand the situation with stray dogs and population trends (including rabies cases via stray dogs)
- Lack of awareness of responsible ownership among the citizens
- Unidentified or non-precisely identified source of stray dog population
- Lack or insufficient level of identification and registration of dogs
- Insufficient legal framework and level of enforcement with clearly defined responsibilities and competencies
- Insufficient coordination between the different authorities involved in stray population control
- Lack of national strategies (with notably sufficient guidelines and instructions for municipalities)
- Lack of physical resources (shelters) to host stray dogs that have been caught and are ready for adoption
- Insufficient human and financial resources assigned to stray dog population control

• Session 4 – Addressing challenges

➤ Topic 1 – Identifying the source of the stray dogs

General presentation on Topic 1 (Dr Alexandra Hammond-Seaman - RSPCA)

RSPCA was created in 1824 and is the oldest animal welfare organisation; it is a charity and receives no government funding. The organisation has four scientific departments dealing with companion, farm and laboratory animals and wildlife and focuses its activities in East Asia, Africa and in Europe. RSPCA is notably very active in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2008, RSPCA together with other partners established the



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Western Balkan Veterinary Network aiming to improve animal welfare in the region. Estimating the number of stray dogs and identifying their main sources are crucial preliminary steps to design a proper stray dog management strategy. Many factors influence the size of stray dog populations, which need to be identified and analysed. ICAM developed a 'humane dog population management guidance'¹, which includes a monitoring and evaluation tool. The tool measures the impact of implemented interventions. Methods of measurements includes: street surveys, direct observations, questionnaires, participatory methods, secondary surveys and clinic records. The choice of methods depends on the ratio of owned vs. un-owned dogs. Recommended indicators for measuring the reduction in population density and in population turnover were presented as part of the monitoring and evaluation process.

Country experience on Topic 1 (Dr Leri Kvaraia – Georgia)

According to the Georgian legislation, the establishment of rules for keeping pets and the problems associated with stray animals falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the local governments. In the city of Tbilisi, the number of citizens suffering from the aggression of stray dogs has been increasing gradually over the years: the number of victims, who contacted medical institutions in Tbilisi amounted to 11 938, 12230, and 8341 respectively in 2013, 2014 and the first 8 months of 2015. Among the victims of dog attacks, about 40% are young people under the age of 15 years, indicating a need for effective awareness activities among both the general population and among the younger generations in the capital's schools. The above statistics indirectly indicates an increase in the number of stray dog population. Unfortunately, the question of effective stray dog population control was not assessed for decades and the number of stray dogs has not been counted. As a result, direct and reliable statistics are missing as well as dynamics in dog populations.

In order to address this lack of data, which is the basis for further activity planning, a 'civilized', welfare-based method for dog population control was introduced, associated with the establishment of the number of stray dogs in the city of Tbilisi: according to preliminary data, the number is about 30 to 40 000. The main sources of growth in their numbers in Tbilisi are the following:

- Existing food sources: landfills, markets, facilities for meat and dairy products processing, restaurants, military units, hospitals, etc.;
- Existing habitat for stray dogs: abandoned buildings in the suburb of forests where they breed, live together in flocks, looking aggressively for food - attacking farms in nearby areas;
- Permanent migration of stray dogs from neighbouring areas in the direction of Tbilisi and the gradual move to the centre of the city looking for food;
- Presence among citizens of persons who permanently feed stray dogs;
- Irresponsible attitude of certain categories of owners to their dogs, who let them roam freely and live on the street (with uncontrolled reproduction);
- Irresponsible activities of certain so-called "Animal rights (protectors)", creating favourable conditions for the uncontrolled breeding of stray dogs;
- More and more favourable climate conditions.

In addition, a survey on the problems associated with the presence in town of a large number of stray animals was conducted among the residents of Tbilisi. The survey results indicate that more than 80 % of them are concerned with this problem and require authorities to take drastic measures to address it. For

¹ http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/Humane_Dog_Population_Management_Guidance_English.pdf



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the efficacy of any control activities, it is necessary to introduce systems to find the exact number of stray dogs, based on modern technologies, with the support from donors.

➤ **Topic 2 – Surveying and monitoring stray dog population**

General presentation of Topic 2 (Dr R. Kolesar / OIE expert)

Population estimates are necessary for making realistic plans for dog population management and zoonosis control, and for monitoring the success of such interventions. However, for designing effective management plans, data on population sizes alone are insufficient. Additional information is required, such as degrees of supervision of owned dogs, the origin of ownerless dogs, accessibility, etc. Dog population elements that should generally be monitored and evaluated include:

- dog population size, separated into sub-populations in accordance with ownership and restriction of movement (i.e. roaming unrestricted or restricted by an owner);
- dog welfare, in the target population (e.g. body condition score, skin conditions and injuries or lameness);
- prevalence of zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, in both the animal and human population;
- responsible animal ownership, including measures of attitudes and understanding of responsible ownership and evidence that this is translating into responsible behaviour.

There are essentially two ways to obtain a population in a defined area and within a few days:

- Counting of dogs visible in a defined area is the simplest approach to getting information on population size. One has to take into account that the visibility of dogs depends on the physical environment, but also on dog and human activity patterns. The visibility of animals changes with the time of the day and with seasons as a function of food availability, shelter (shade), disturbance, etc. Repeated standardized counting of dogs visible within defined geographical localities (e.g. wards) and specific times will provide indications of population trends. Direct counting is most reliable if it is applied to small and relatively confined dog populations, e.g. in villages, where it might be possible to recognize individual dogs based on their physical appearance.

- Methods using mark-recapture procedures are often considered more reliable. However, they also produce trustworthy results only when a number of preconditions are met. Mortality, emigration and recruitment into the population should be minimal during the census period. One may be able to incorporate corrective factors into the calculations.

ICAM Guidelines provides concrete example on how to implement these two methodologies.

To gain a better understanding of dog population dynamics, it is also important to note the age (pups, adults), the sex (male, female, unknown) and the reproductive status of the dogs (neutered or not; lactating female), regardless of the counting method used. Finally, the welfare status of the dog population (skin condition, lameness or body condition score) should be noted, to notably plan specific dog management activities. ICAM provides a free online training on dog body condition scoring.

Country experience on Topic 2 (Dr Eldar Hasanov - Azerbaijan)



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An assessment with an objective to define the size, composition and dynamic of the stray dog population is currently being conducted in the city of Baku, as well as a study of the society behaviour to stray dogs.

The size assessment was conducted in line with the principles of the ICAM guidelines: each administrative district of Baku was divided into 39 plots, in 18 of which took place the counting activities. Counting was carried out in April 2015, from 5.30 AM to 12.30 PM. The formula Total number of dogs count / (the number of sites / total number of blocks) was used, and according to the calculations 2444 dogs were counted. In each plot, there was an average of 26 dogs. The calculation of the dispersion and standard deviation were also taken into account to refine the numbers. 95% confidence interval of this estimate provides a final estimation between 2106 to 2781 stray dogs in Baku.

Any country in the region who wishes to organise a counting survey of stray dogs in cities is invited to contact the colleagues in Azerbaijan to benefit from their great experience.

➤ Topic 3 – Designing a modern legislation on stray dogs

General presentation of Topic 3 (Dr Martial Petitclerc / OIE Headquarters)

There is not a universal legislation that could apply for all countries. Legal texts should exist only if there is a need to address specific problems and as such, they should contain technical solutions tailored to these problems. According to the OIE, veterinary legislation is a pillar of the good veterinary governance and should cover the veterinary domain as described in the OIE TAHC, including of course animal welfare. The difficulty with the stray dog legislation is that it falls under the responsibilities of different Competent Authorities as it relates to Public Security (Ministry of interiors and therefore municipalities) and Veterinary Public Health (Veterinary Services in most cases), not to mention Ministry of Justice for the enforcement of penalties (the juridical status of animals should in particular be described). As more than one Competent Authority is involved, a clear delineation of responsibilities among them as well as a reliable system of external coordination and cooperation should be in place to ensure consistency in the application of the stray dog legislation and related regulatory acts. As far as Veterinary Public Health is concerned, the stray dog legislation should include provisions in line with Chapter 7.7. of the OIE TAHC (it is notably recalled that OIE recognizes euthanasia of dogs as a possible control measure but only if combined with other control measures and implemented in a 'humane manner'); the TAHC serves as unique reference both for EU and non-EU member countries as the EU does not have a legal framework specific to stray dog population control. The process of drafting/modernising stray dog legislation is complex and should include first a detailed analysis of all existing texts in the matter, under the Veterinary Services and other Competent Authorities' responsibilities. The process should also make sure to involve all interested parties, including NGOs when relevant. The OIE is providing continuous support to its member countries to comply with the OIE international standards and in particular to modernize their veterinary legislation accordingly, using the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme of the OIE PVS Pathway.

Country experience on Topic 3 (Dr K. Jazdzewski - Poland)

Poland has specific pieces of legislation² since 1997 that relates directly or indirectly to stray dog population control. Acts of 21 August 1997 and of 11 March 2004 provides a general framework for animal welfare and

²

– Act of 21 August 1997 on animal protection (Journal of Laws of 1997, No. 111, item 724 as amended).



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animal health (including notably all aspects linked to rabies prevention and control measures) in Poland, while some other text are addressing some very specific aspects such as the working conditions in shelters and the conditions for catching homeless animals.

Overall, the legal framework is quite comprehensive and includes provisions for cats and dogs breeding and selling of cats and dogs (it is notably banned to sell dogs and cats on markets, exhibitions) and reproduction of dogs and cats for commercial purposes is allowed only by registered breeders. Breeding of aggressive breeds is also permitted only under certain conditions provided by local municipalities. Identification and registration of dogs is mandatory in Poland.

The management of stray dogs falls directly under the responsibility of local authorities (municipalities). In order to facilitate their work, special provisions are made for their collaboration with animal welfare organisation, notably NGOs. Under specific programs (GMINA) adopted by resolutions, these organisations proceed to the trapping of stray dogs and their sheltering, in appropriated premises that respect regulation of 23 April 2004. These animals are also identified, sterilised and vaccinated. They are then proposed for adoption. Euthanasia of animals is permitted in very specific cases only. In 2014, there were 183 animal shelters in Poland, mostly for dogs and cats.

➤ Topic 4 – Using Euthanasia as a last recourse

General presentation on Topic 4 (Joe Anzuino - WAP)

Euthanasia is defined in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) glossary as ‘the act of inducing death using a method that causes a rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress to animals’.

TAHC Chapter 7.7. on stray dog population control:

- ‘Recognizes that **culling alone** is not effective for population control because dog ecology is linked with human activities, control of dog populations has to be accompanied by changes in human behaviour to be effective; promotion of responsible dog ownership is therefore a key activity to significantly reduce the numbers of stray dogs and the incidence of zoonotic diseases’;
- Specifies acceptable and unacceptable methods, and
- Confirms the importance of controlling dog population **without** causing unnecessary animals suffering.

Further information on euthanasia can also be found in the ‘Humane Dog Populations Management Guidance’ produced by the International Companion Animal Management (ICAM) coalition.
www.icam-coalition.org.

Regardless of the method used, it is important to minimise distress, anxiety and pain for the dogs by ensuring that operators are appropriately trained. Proper understanding and handling of dogs and

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- Act of 11 March 2004 on animal health protection and counteracting animal infectious diseases (Journal of Laws of 2004, No. 69, item 625 as amended).
 - Regulation of the Minister of the Agriculture and Rural Development of 23 June 2004 on detailed requirements for conducting animal shelters (Journal of Laws of 2004 No. 158, item 1657).
 - Regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of 26 August 1998 on terms and conditions of catching homeless animals (Journal of Laws of 1998 No. 116, item 753).



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implementing good practice is important with all techniques used for safety, efficiency and animal welfare reasons.

Euthanasia is an ethical issue and should be carried out only as a last recourse, and, in the dogs' best interest. This can only be fully determined by consideration of the current and likely future quality of life that a stray dog would have taking in to account social, economic and environment factors and alternative options available. An 'Advisory Group', as recommended in chapter 7.7, can be helpful in clarify situations when euthanasia may be justifiable.

The 3 'r's framework (replacement, reduction and refinement') defined in the OIE guidelines for animal welfare (chapter 7.1) can also be used in deciding the right course of action when considering euthanasia within a stray dog population management programme. Using this framework, consider first:

1. **Replacing** the need for euthanasia by preventing populations of stray dogs developing through the promotion of **responsible dog ownership**;
2. **Reducing** the need for euthanasia by improving rehoming rates for stray dogs and, for example, catch-neuter-release programmes, if acceptable;
3. If euthanasia of some dogs is necessary, then **refinement** can include ensuring that there is a culture of care with the organization involved. Good practice guidelines are always followed, which include using only specified 'acceptable' methods for euthanasia.

Country presentation on Topic 4 (Dr Bénédicte Beneult – France)

In metropolitan France, 'stray dogs' consist only of lost or abandoned dogs (situation which is different from the overseas 'districts' which experience stray dog population *per se*). The mayor is responsible for any stray or injured dogs in his municipality and has obligation to have an 'animal pound system' (local structure suitable for reception and care of stray dogs and cats). This is a public service which differs from an animal shelter (in France these are held by animal welfare associations). However, in some cases, the pound may be delegated to an animal welfare association or to a private company, under supervision by the municipality. The pound is tasked with:

- The reception and care of stray or seized animals
- The search for the owner (within 8 working days)
- The restitution to the owner or placement in a shelter or euthanasia; for the 2 latter, decision is made by a veterinarian.

In most cases (63%), the restitution to the owners is practised; the placement of the animal in a shelter for its adoption occurs in 32% of cases. Euthanasia is practised only for sanitary reasons (3%) or in cases of dangerous or impossible-to-be-adopted dogs (2%).

Strong emphasis is put on the different tools to avoid euthanasia:

First, identification of dogs in France is compulsory since 1999, by tattoo or electronic chip. Registration of dogs is made by the means of a national database. Every attempt is also made to find the owner using the national database, smartphone applications or the advertising of the abandoned dog in several publications and websites. Finally a lot of efforts are made to sensitize the population to good dog ownership practices (do not abandon your dogs during the summer period holidays) using flyers, videos and also guidelines specifically dedicated to mayors.



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➤ **Topic 5 – Controlling rabies in dogs**

General presentation of Topic 5 (Dr A. Suharkov – OIE Collaborating Center ARRIAH Russia)

[This presentation will be provided in the Russian version of this document.]

DAY 3 – 8 October 2015 - Chaired by OIE (Dr N. Leboucq)

• **Session 5 – Building a Vision towards sustainable stray dog control in the West Eurasian countries**

➤ **Summary – Developing a comprehensive stray dog population control strategy in compliance with the OIE Standards (Dr Alexandra Hammond-Seaman - RSPCA)**

When developing a national stray dog control strategy, a key and basic step is to properly identify the source of the problem. The strategy should have clear objectives linked to a well-defined set of actions, clear impacts and related indicators, a realistic timeline and an appropriate budget. The national Strategy should be developed in consultation with stakeholders on the basis of chapter 7.7 of the OIE TAHC and should include elements such as education, communication, coordination and implementation of action plan at local level, adapted to specific situations. The responsibilities and competencies of the various parties involved should also be well delineated. Monitoring and evaluation is another important element of the Strategy to improve its performance and demonstrate the results achieved. Other important challenges to address when defining a National Strategy include: (i) public attitudes; (ii) political will; (iii) communication and coordination amongst different stakeholders; (iv) enforcement of existing law; (v) infrastructure and resources; (vi) education and trainings at all levels; (vii) outcome indicators to measure impact of stray dog population management; (viii) baseline data collection and others. The website of the ICAM contains much useful information in that respect: www.icam-coalition.org

Link to the presentation:

http://217.19.49.202/fileadmin/doc/eng/SDB_1/Strategy_in_compliance_with_the_OIE_-_RSPCA.pdf

➤ **Working Group Session – exchange on a common Vision at sub-regional level (work in two working groups of 5 countries)**

West Eurasian Countries agreed on:

1. A common Vision at sub-regional level to be '**compliant with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapter 7.7. on stray dog population control by 2030**', implying:

- the stray dog population is reduced to an acceptable level
- the risk of transmission of rabies and other zoonoses to human is mitigated

However, all countries understood the need to conduct a robust assessment of their dog population (including stray dogs) to be able to implement comprehensive stray dog population control measures. This



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'assessment phase' should be conducted until 2020, while some countries may have managed to collate and analyse results before.

2. The use of the SAM Tool to measure the progress achieved at national level over every one or two years. The first self-assessment will be conducted early 2016 to be able to establish a first set of data. The assessment of the number of stray dogs in the largest cities, the identification of the sources of stray dogs and a survey to understand the societal behaviour with regards to stray dogs may be priorities of the first years.

3. The establishment of a national Advisory Group on dog population management, composed of various stakeholders from the public, private and civil society stakeholders, with a view to analysing the data collated, and propose efficient measures to stray dog population control in the country.

4. The need for regular coordination Workshops under the OIE Platform (SDWE2, SDWE3, etc.) every 2 years provided funding is available, to monitor the progress (using the Self-Assessment and Monitoring tool) and exchange on future actions

4. The development of national Roadmaps to achieve the vision by addressing the identified key challenges.



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Annexes

Annex 1 - List of participants

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Annex 2 – Agenda of the SDB1 Workshop

First OIE Regional Workshop on Stray Dog population management for West Eurasia countries (SDWE1) Bishkek / Kyrgyzstan – 6-8 October 2015

Agenda

Objective:

- Remind the provisions of the OIE Chapter 7.7 on stray dog population control
- Review National Control strategies on stray dog population and establish the baseline situation (in terms of compliance with OIE standard) in West Eurasian countries
- Identify the key weaknesses/constraints/challenges in implementation of the OIE standards
- Share best practices of sustainable management of stray dogs in the region
- Exchange on a common vision at Sub-Regional level to address the problem with the stray dog population control including its rabies component, with the perspective of a Roadmap to achieve the vision

Rapporteur of the Meeting: Secretariat of the OIE Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

Day 1: 6 October 2015 – Delegate of Kyrgyzstan

Time	Topic	Speaker
08:30	Registration of participants	
09:00 – 9:15	Inauguration and Opening	OIE ; OIE Delegate Kyrgyzstan
<i>Session 1 – Setting the scene session</i>		
09:15 – 9:30	OIE general presentation	E. Panina (OIE)
9:30 – 9:45	OIE achievements on Animal Welfare	L. Stuardo (OIE)
9:45 – 10:00	OIE Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe	N. Leboucq (OIE)
10:00 – 10:15	Discussion	
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 11:15	OIE Animal Welfare standard on stray dog population control (chapter 7.7)	R. Kolesar
11:15 – 11:45	OIE standard on infection with rabies virus (chapter 8.13)	L. Stuardo (OIE)
11:45 – 12:15	WHO presentation on rabies in Central Asia	Video presentation
12:15 – 12:30	Discussion	All
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 14:30	OIE regional initiative on stray dog population control in the	N. Leboucq (OIE)



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	Balkans	
14:30 – 15:00	In-depth presentation of the stray dog Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool	B. Alessandrini (IZSAM / Teramo)
15:00 – 15:30	Discussion	All
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
Session 2 – Country reports		
16:00 – 17:30	Countries presentation (10 min per country)	8 West Eurasia countries
17:30 – 18:00	Discussion and wrap up of the day	
19:00	Dinner offered by the OIE	
Day 2: 7 October 2015 – Chair: Leopoldo Stuardo		
Time	Topic	Speaker
Session 3 – Identification of key challenges		
9.00 – 9:10	Opening and presentation of the day 2 agenda	Chair
9:10 – 10:10	Working Group Session - Identification of key challenges	WG1; WG2
10:10 – 10:30	Reporting of the Working Groups (10 min each)	WG rapporteurs
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
Session 4—Adressing the Challenges		
11:00 – 12:30	Topic 1 – Identifying the source of the problem (Stray Dogs)	
11:00	- General presentation of Topic 1 (based on Chapter 7.7)	A. Hammond-Seaman
11:30	- Sharing of best practices (Country experience)	Georgia
12:00	- Discussion	All
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 15:00	Topic 2 – Surveying and monitoring Stray dog population	
13:30	- General presentation of Topic 2	R. Kolesar
13:50	- Sharing of best practices (Country experience)	Azerbaijan
14:10	- Discussion	All
14:10 – 15:00	Topic 3 – Designing a modern legislation on Stray Dogs	
14:10	- General presentation of Topic 3	Martial Petitclerc
14:30	- Sharing of best practices (Country experience)	Poland
14:50	- Discussion	All
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 16:30	Topic 4 – Using Euthanasia as a last recourse	
15:30	- General presentation of Topic 4 (WAP guidelines)	Joe Anzuino (WAP)
15:50	- Sharing of best practices (Country experience)	France
16:10	- Discussion	All



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16:10 – 17:00	Topic 5 – Controlling rabies in dogs	
16:10	- General presentation of Topic 5	A. Suharkov (OIE Collaborating Center) Kazakhstan
16:30	- Sharing of best practices (Country experience)	
16:50	- Discussion	All
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap Up of the day	Chair
Day 3: 8 October 2015 – Chair: N. Leboucq		
Time	Topic	Speaker
<i>Session 5—Building a Vision towards sustainable stray dog control in West Eurasia</i>		
9:00	Opening and presentation of the day 3 agenda	Chair
9:00 – 9:30	Summary – Steps to developing a comprehensive Stray Dog population control Strategy (in compliance with OIE standards)	Alexandra Hammond-Seaman
9:30 – 10:15	Working Group Session – exchange on a shared vision at Sub-Regional level to address stray dogs	WG1 and WG2
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45— 11:15	Reporting of the Working Groups (15 min each)	WG rapporteurs
11:15 – 11:45	Discussion	All
<i>Session 6 — Closing session</i>		
11:45 – 12:15	Round Table / Evaluation	All
12:30	Closing remarks – end of meeting	OIE ; EC ; OIE Delegate Kyrgyzstan