



**Second OIE regional Workshop
on Stray Dog population management
for Balkan countries (SDB2)**
Tirana / Albania – 14-16 June 2016

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

Dr Boban Đurić, Head of Animal Welfare unit

What is the current situation with regards to stray dogs in your country?

CURRENT SITUATION OF STRAY DOGS IN SERBIA

OWNED DOGS		Obligatory registration in Central Data Base					
Estimated No							
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
133.376	119.726	120.040	101.269	88.407	89.480	85.171	45.444

STRAY DOGS		Direct observation		Trend →		Counting	
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015/2016	Urban area
50.000	55.000	60.000	65.000	70.000	75.000	increasing	

PROBLEMS:

- health problems
- welfare problems
- hording problems
- economical problems
- lack of knowledge (local governments, non governmental organizations)

What progress have been achieved since June 2014 to assess the situation? (dog survey? Improvement of the legal framework? Etc)

- Legally, this area is well regulated by the Animal Welfare Act and the Veterinary Law

- **Animal Welfare Law** ("*Official Gazette of RS*", No. 41/09)
- **Law on Ratification of European Convention on the Protection of Pet Animals** (ETS 125)
- **Rule book animal welfare in shelters and boarding premises** ("*Official Journal of RS*", No. 19/12)
- **Rule book animal welfare in breeding establishments** ("*Official Journal of RS*", No. 14/12)
- **Rule book on manner of keeping of animals that may pose the danger to the environment** ("*Official Journal of RS*", No. 65/10)
- **Law on Veterinary Matters** ("*Official Journal of RS*", No 91/05, 30/2010)
- **Rule book on form and content of certificates on vaccination of dogs and cats against Rabies, as well as content of record of vaccinated dogs and cats** ("*OJ of RS*" No. 62/07)
- **Rule book on animal health protection measures for 2016** ("*Official Journal of RS*" No. 32/15)
- **Rule book on the manner of identification and registration of dogs and cats** ("*Official Journal of RS*" No. 23/12)
- **Rule book on the conditions for non-commercial pet movement for which the decree on import and transit is not necessary, as well as the form and content of the consignment certificate** ("*Official Journal of RS*" No. 11/11 and 64/14)

What are the remaining challenges to assess the situation?

- Lack of coordination of the competent authority?
- Insufficient number of people at the level of state authority?
- Pressure NGO

What are the proposed next steps?

- Collection of the data on stray dogs population on central level
- Creation of the National Program for the control and reduction of the population of abandoned dogs and cats
- Cost-benefit analyses
- Joint activities
- Continue with the registration of shelters, a special kennel?
- Training persons

II. Control measures

What is the current situation with regards to strategy / programme (s) for the control of stray dogs in your country? (and the management of dog population in general)

The Republic of Serbia has no strategy for solving this problem at the national level. In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, local governments are obliged for preparing a strategy to control the population of abandoned animals.

What progress have been achieved since June 2014 to control stray dogs?

- 1. RESEARCH IN DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT IN MUNICIPALITIES IN 2015**
- 2. Questionnaire sent out to 145 self-governments**
- 3. Answers received by the deadline from 82 self-governments (71 municipalities and 10 cities + Belgrade)**
- 4. Questionnaire developed in accordance with OIE questionnaire on stray dog population control.**

What are the remaining challenges to control stray dogs

- Lack of knowledge**
- Insufficient number of human resources (central level)**
- Insufficient involvement NGO sector on the proper manner**
- Hording**
- Economical factor**

What are the proposed next steps to control stray dogs?
(and the management of dog population in general

1. Funding
2. Public education
3. Expert help in developing program
4. Training for municipality services
5. Cooperation with other municipalities
6. More frequent inspections
7. Equipment and training for the departments of zoohygiene
8. Example of good practice
9. Education of children in schools
10. Help with rehoming
11. Other (changes to Animal Welfare and Veterinary Law, more licensing control, more jurisdiction to the local self-government in terms of identification and vaccination, breeding control)

III. Monitoring and evaluation

If you have a stray dog strategy / programme (s) / activities in place,

Do you monitor and evaluate them?

- control of implementation of the Animal Welfare Law
- animal health control
- registration of animal shelters
- registration of breeding establishment
- CREATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION IS OBLIGATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT!

What are the remaining challenges to monitor and evaluate them?

- Creation of the National Program for the control and reduction of the population of abandoned dogs and cats
- Cost-benefit analyses
- Joint activities
- What are the proposed next steps to monitor and evaluate them?
- Collection of the data on stray dogs population on central level

Main control measures

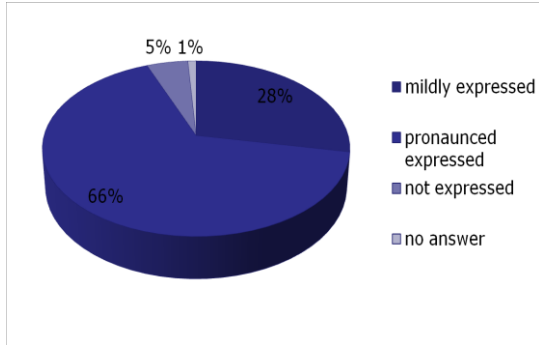
- legislation/ primary and secondary
- responsible ownership
- identification and registration (transponders, ISO standard)
- surgical sterilisation
- appropriate shelters, registration
- control movements
- registration of breeding establishments
- reduction of bites incidence-responsibility of the owner
- licence of dangerous dogs
- euthanasia is allowed –T61

What progress have been achieved since June 2014 to monitor and evaluate them?

- **RESEARCH IN DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT IN MUNICIPALITIES IN 2015**
- Implemented by the Veterinary Directorate at the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Republic Serbia and ORCA, supported by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government
- Conducted in the first half of 2015
- Questionnaire sent out to **145 self-governments** (122 municipalities, 22 cities + City of Belgrade);
- Answers received by the deadline from 82 self-governments (71 municipalities and 10 cities + Belgrade)
- **Questionnaire developed in accordance with OIE** questionnaire on stray dog population control. Also questions from ORCA's questionnaire sent to municipalities in 2011/2012 in order to draw comparisons

Reparation OEI questionnaires and data processing

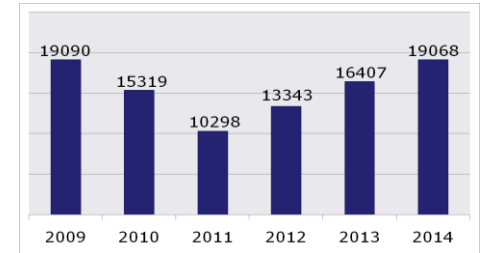
LEVEL OF SEVERITY OF STRAY DOG PROBLEMS



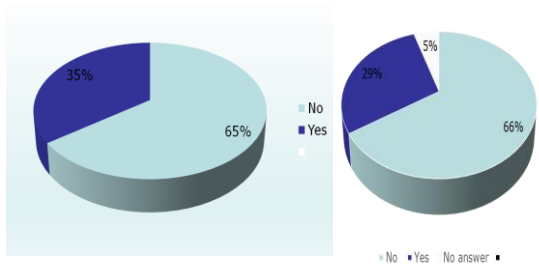
ESTIMATION OF STRAY DOG POPULATION



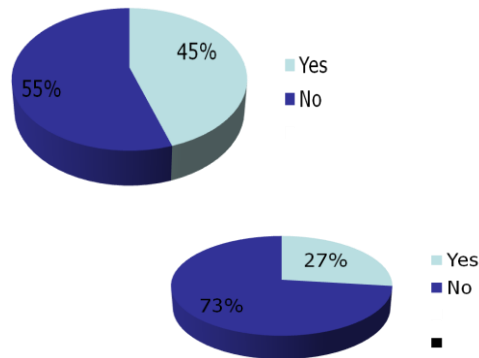
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF STRAY DOGS



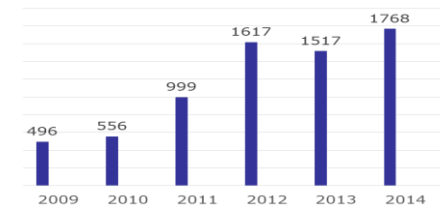
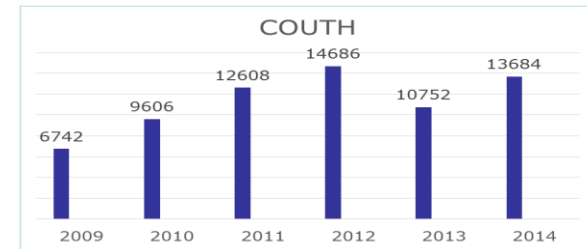
STRAY DOG POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM in 2015/REPRODUCTION CONTROL (NEUTERING)



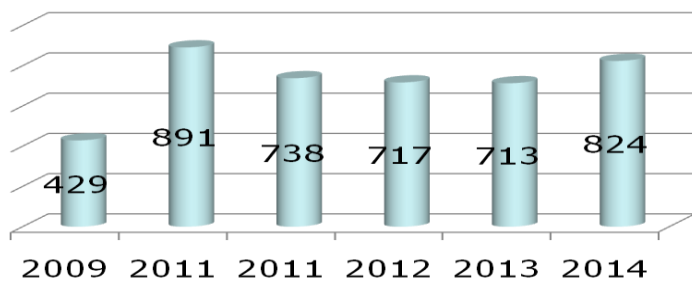
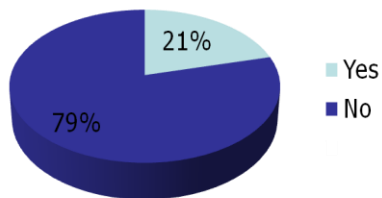
CNR PROGRAM/REHOMING



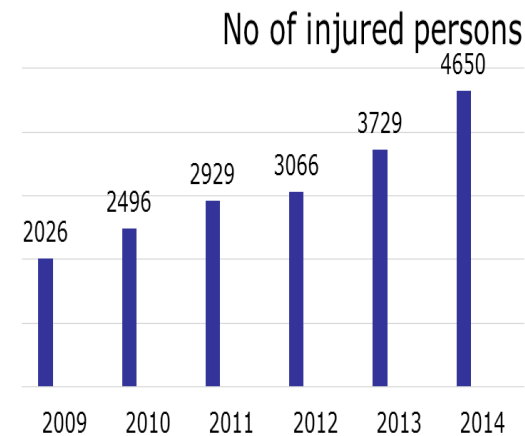
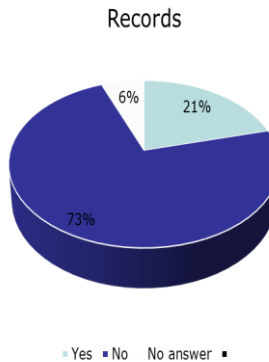
COUTH AND REHOMED



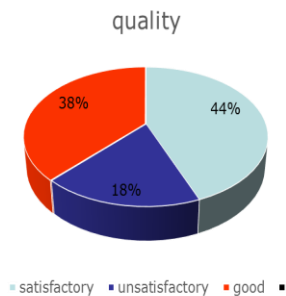
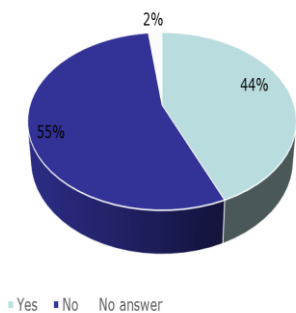
EUTHANAZIA



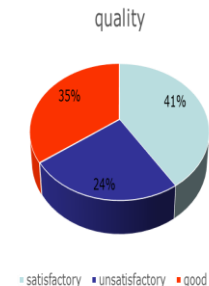
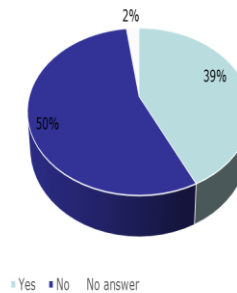
INJURIES



COOPERATIONS WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES



COOPERATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT



IV. Rabies dimension

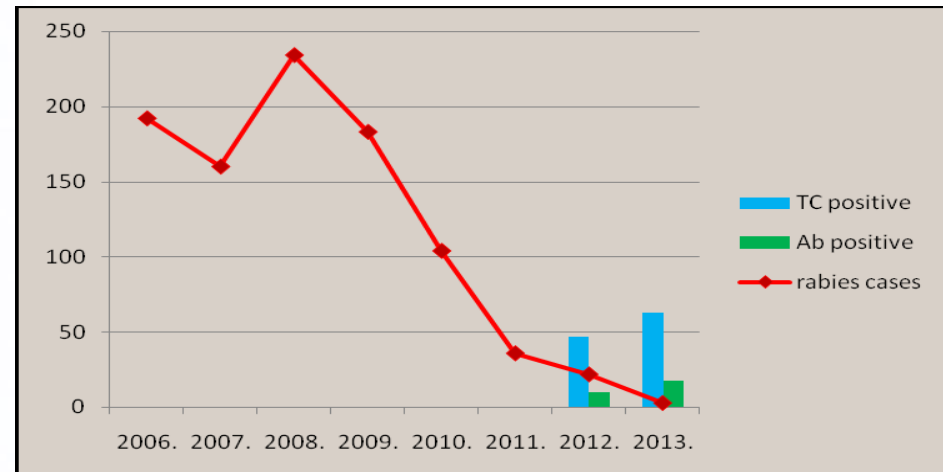
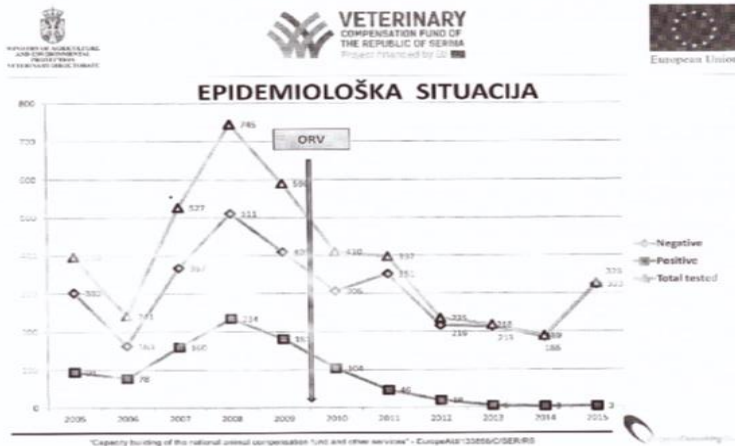


How has the rabies situation evolved in your country since 2014
(in dogs; in wildlife; in humans)

1. **The situation is getting better.** After continuous application of vaccination of foxes number of cases is significantly reduced (last year there were 3).
2. In the Republic of Serbia has no urban rabies.
3. By law, compulsory vaccination of dogs.
4. *Human cases: the last one in 1967*
5. *Animal population:*
 - *Endemic in wild population (silvatic Rabies);*
 - *sporadic in domestic/pet population*

YEAR	TESTED	POSITIVE
2006	550	192
2007	569	160
2008	742	234
2008	591	183
2010	459	104
2011	186	36
2012	278	19
2013	65	5

ORV



Do you have rabies control programme(s) in place in your country?

We have. The control is regulated by the Veterinary Act and Regulations. Work is also continuing vaccination of foxes.

Are you aware of the Global framework for the elimination of dog mediated rabies adopted in December 2015?

Yes

- If yes, have you carried out steps / activities to implement it at national level?
 1. making human vaccines and antibodies affordable,
 2. ensuring people who get bitten receive prompt treatment,
 3. mass dog vaccinations to tackle the disease at its source.
 4. oral vaccination of wild animals

IV. Conclusions and future needs

- Overall, do you consider that your country is in compliance with OIE standard on Stray Dog population control in terms of:
 - Assessing the situation: **PARTIALY**
 - Controlling the situation: **YES**
 - Monitoring the situation: **PARTIALY**
- Do you need external aid to address the weakness(es) with stray dogs in your country?

There is no help from the outside

Do you have any comment on the national Report prepared by OIE and IZSAM?

No

IV. Conclusions and future needs

- **Problem is pronounced** – 66% of municipalities
- **81% do not conduct estimations** of the stray dog population. Data from those who do, shows **increase**.
- **65% do not have programme**. Comparison to previous results show an increase in the number of programmes
- **Lack of coordination teams** - 62% don't have them
- 90% has **no monitoring** systems in place
- **68% doesn't have shelters** - showing lack of infrastructure
- **Number of injuries is on the steady rise**.
- **Lot of financial resources** (over 7 million EUR) spent on compensations in the last 6 years
- 96% of municipalities stated they **need assistance!**



Thank you for your attention!