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The NGOs' role in guiding and supporting government strategies for DPM and the control of free roaming dogs

Alexandra Hammond-Seaman

(RSPCA)

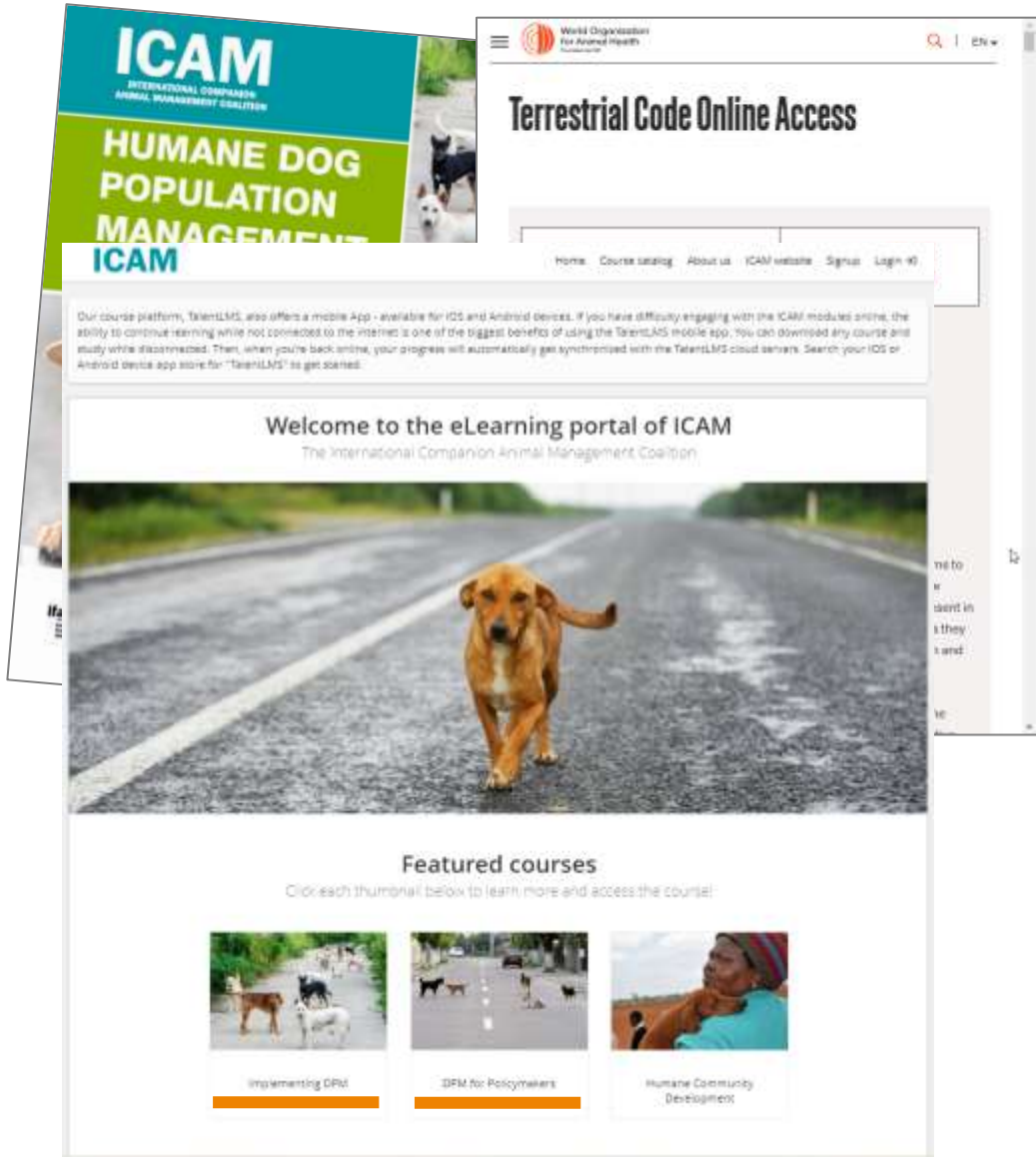
6th Regional workshop on DPM for Western Balkan countries

Sutomore 5-7 November 2024

BATTERSEA · WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION · RSPCA · FOUR PAWS · Dogs Trust Worldwide · international cat care · Global Alliance for Rabies Control · WSAVA Global Veterinary Community

ICAM

- ICAM Coalition formed in 2006
  - Discuss, share and learn
  - Mission: to support the development and use of humane and effective companion animal population management worldwide
- Publish shared learning in guidance and blogs
- Convene conferences to widen learning and encourage DPM science
- Develop tools



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6 principles of DPM

1. Humane and ethical
2. Adapted to local dog population dynamics (no ‘one size fits all’)
3. Sustained and adaptive
4. Evidence-based design, monitoring and evaluation
5. Focus on root causes
6. Central role of human behaviour

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5. Focus on root causes

- ‘Stray control’
  - Focuses only on the ‘symptom’ of the current free-roaming dogs
  - Includes reliance on culling or shelters to ‘clear the streets’ of free-roaming animals
- ‘Population management’
  - Recognises the complexity of dog population dynamics and takes a systems approach
  - Intervenes on ‘causes’; the sources of future unwanted and roaming animals

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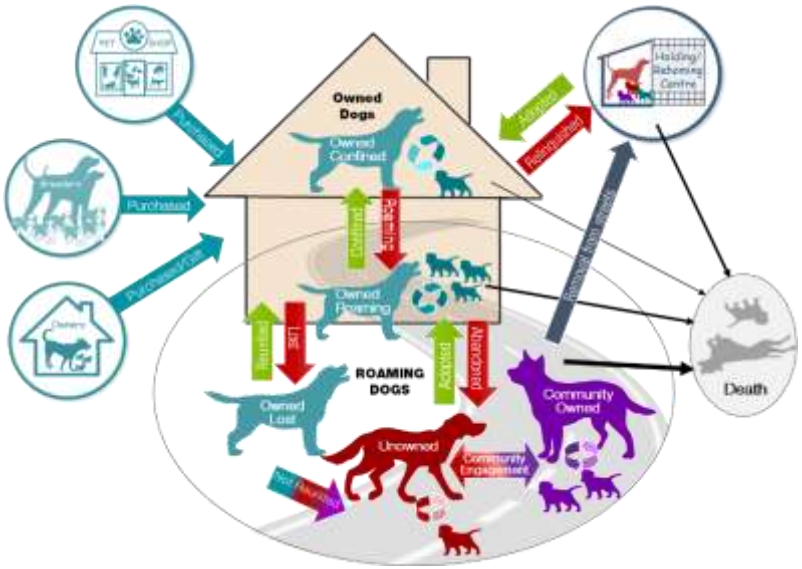
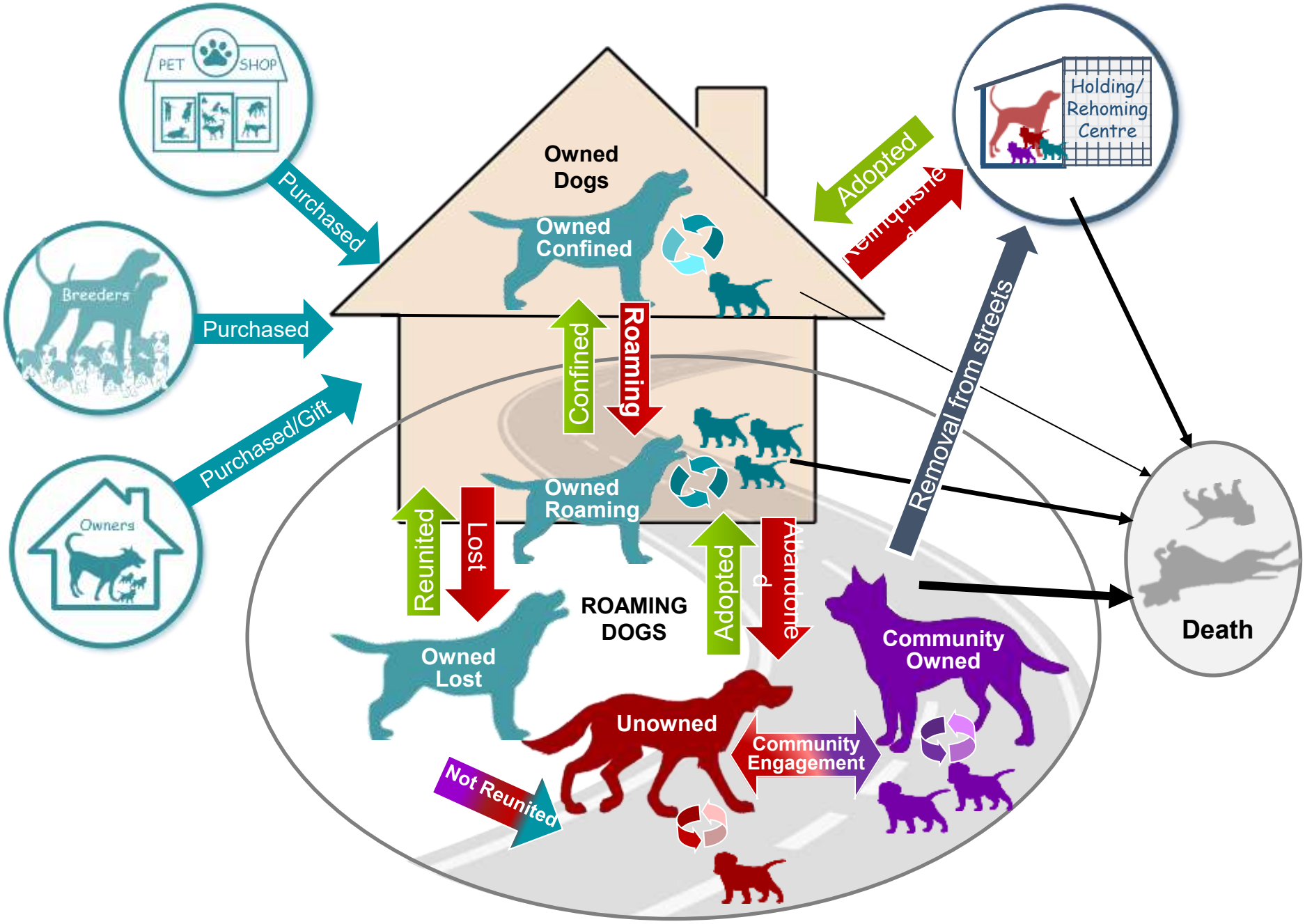
Step 1 – Understand *your* dog population dynamics




PET SHOP
Purchased
Breeders
Purchased
Owners
Purchased/Gift
Owned Dogs
Owned Confined
Confined
Roaming
Owned Roaming
Reunited
Lost
ROAMING DOGS
Owned Lost
Adopted
Abandoned
Unowned
Not Reunited
Community Owned
Community Engagement
Adopted
Holding/ Rehoming Centre
Removal from streets
Death

3. Sustained and adapted

- Population management *system*
  - Foundations
  - Services
- Permanent and adapted over time
- Striving towards positive relationship:
  - Responsible behaviour of owners and carers to maintain good welfare and mitigate risks that dogs and cats may present to other animals, the environment and people.

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Tackling the current roaming dogs

- 2 relevant services, can be used in combination:
  - Holding facilities/rehoming centres or ‘shelters’ for relinquished pets and unowned dogs removed from the streets for reuniting or rehoming.
  - Reproduction control and veterinary care provided to unowned dogs using catch, neuter, vaccinate and return (CNVR) leading to management of unowned dogs *in situ* on the streets (same service can be applied to cats).
- Considerations for each, including the local context and the characteristics of the individual animal

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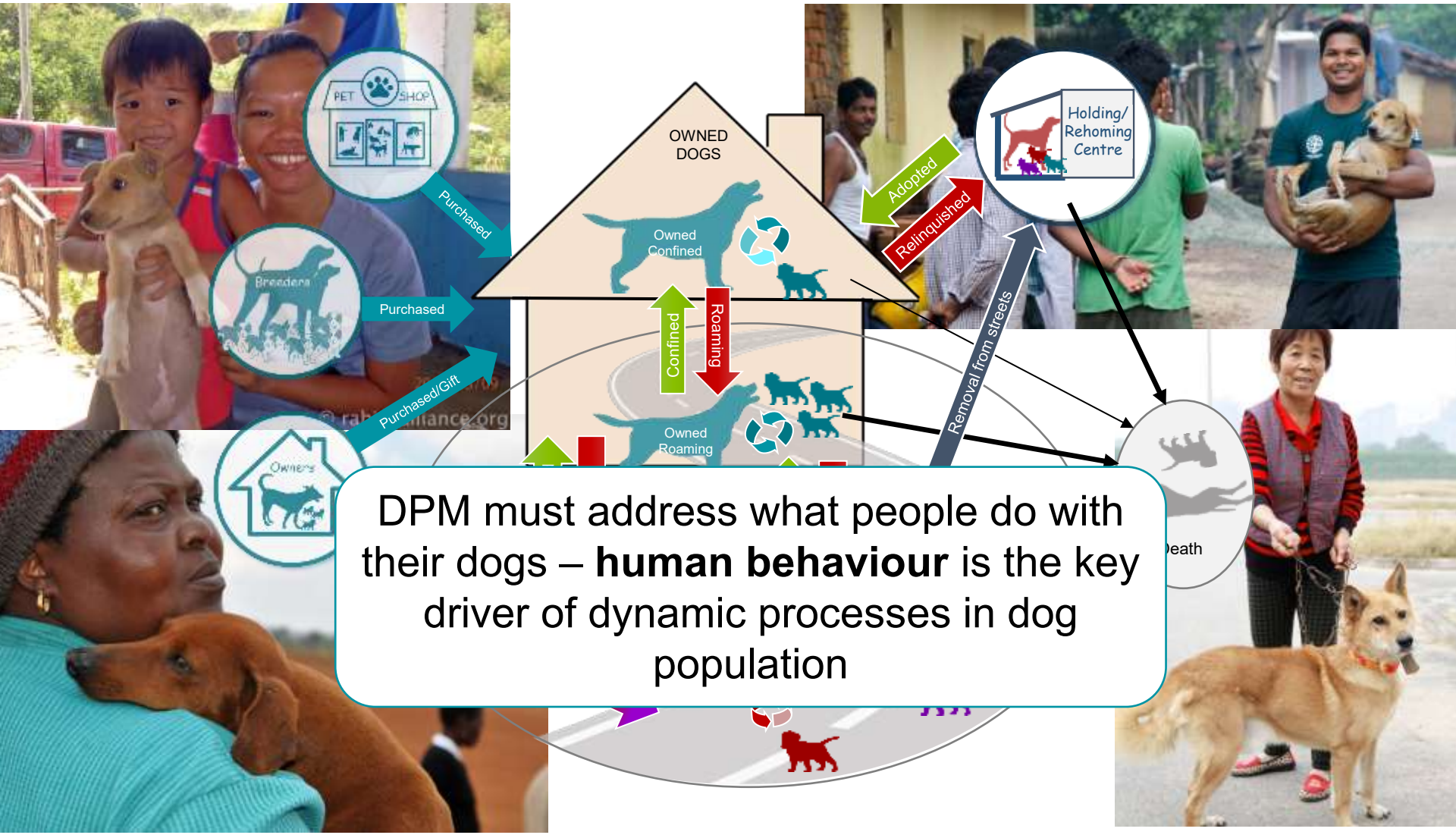

DPM must address what people do with their dogs – **human behaviour** is the key driver of dynamic processes in dog population

6. Focus on humane behaviour change

- It is as much about people as it is about dogs. Dog ecology is linked with human activities.
- Promotion of RPO can significantly reduce the numbers of stray dogs and incidence of zoonotic disease.
- Successful DPM intervention has to be accompanied by a change in human behavior.
- Overpopulation and overproduction of dogs is linked to human activity and is therefore a societal problem which needs to be addressed as a complex and multifaceted issue.

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Roles and responsibilities of national government

- Chapter 7.7 Article 7.7.6:
  - "As a cross-sectoral subject, DPM requires a high level of engagement and collaboration among Competent Authorities responsible for animal health and welfare, food safety, public health and environment, in line with the **One Health** approach."
- Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group
- National action plan to provide the details of actions and coordinate with other action plans, such as dog-related zoonoses
- Funding of national action plans and DPM programmes
- Training of the DPM profession, including veterinarians, and also ensuring they have access to appropriate veterinary medication products
- Minimise population management problems caused by owned animals
  - Education and enforcement of legislation and regulations that demand responsible owner behaviour.

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7.7 WHAT IS NEW-ROLE OF NGOs

- There is one change that now incudes **NGOs within the definition of *veterinary services*** which “means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and the WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Code in the territory” (from the glossary of the Terrestrial Code).
- NGOs are also mentioned as relevant stakeholders within Advisory groups supporting the development of DPM programmes and national action plans.

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5. Evidence-based design, monitoring and evaluation

- DPM guide process
  - Assessment to understand population dynamics
  - Design to address sources and the current free-roaming dogs
  - Monitor, evaluate and adapt to keep improving your impact

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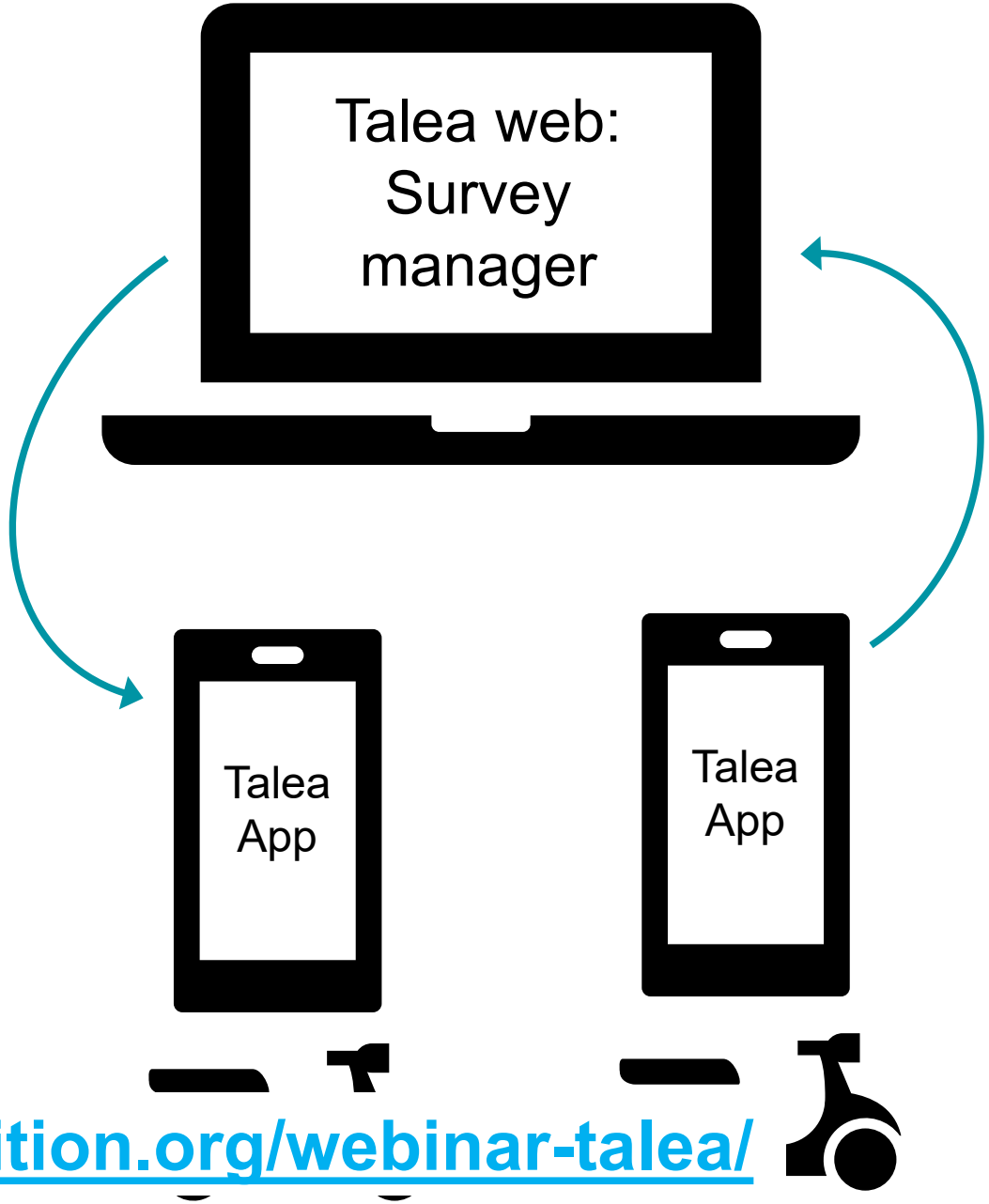
Talea app

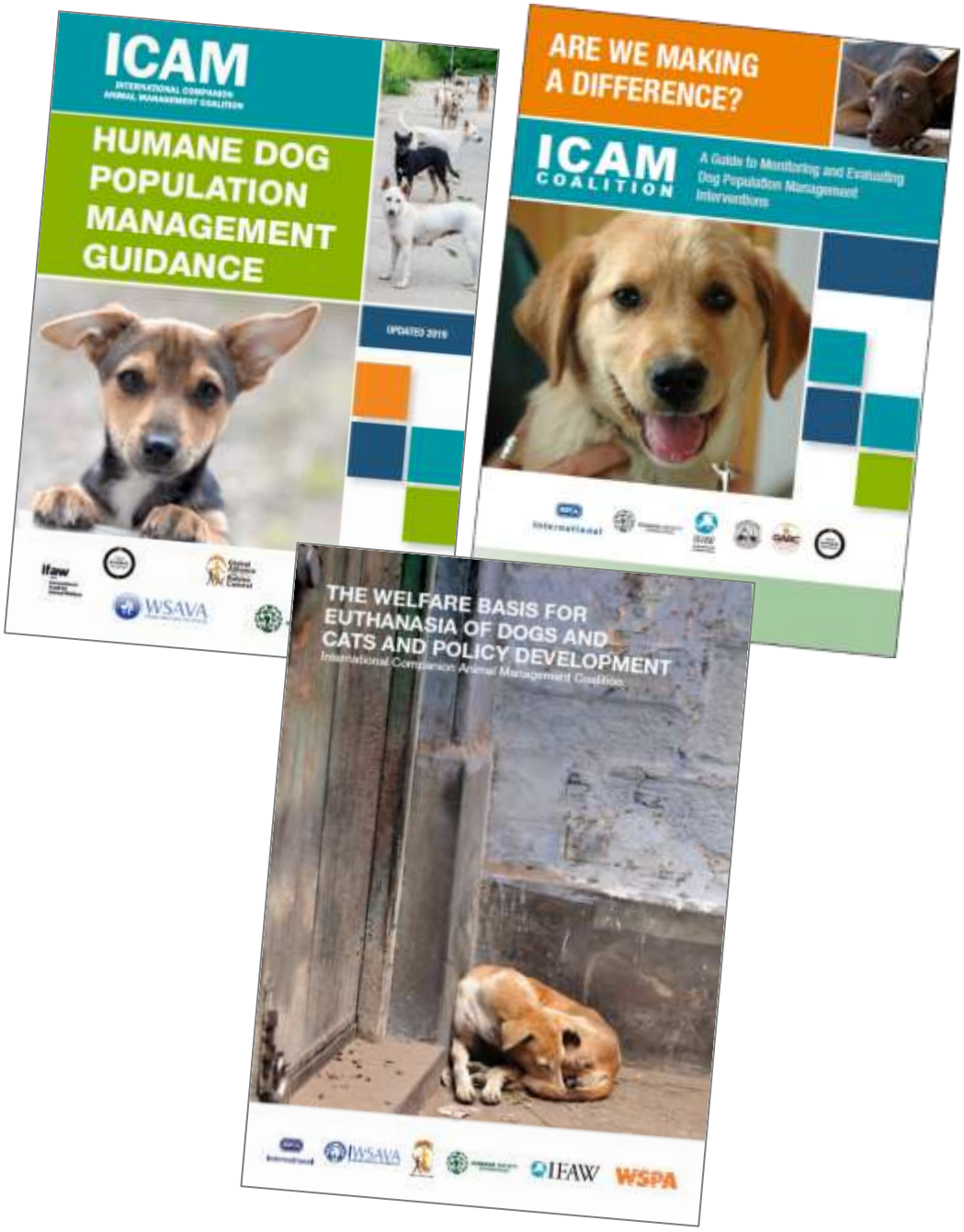
- Website manager sends out ‘packages’ of surveys to the app and receives the data sent by the app
- App helps you navigate along the route and record observations of roaming dogs



www.icam-coalition.org/webinar-talea/

ICAM DPM resources

1. Guidance



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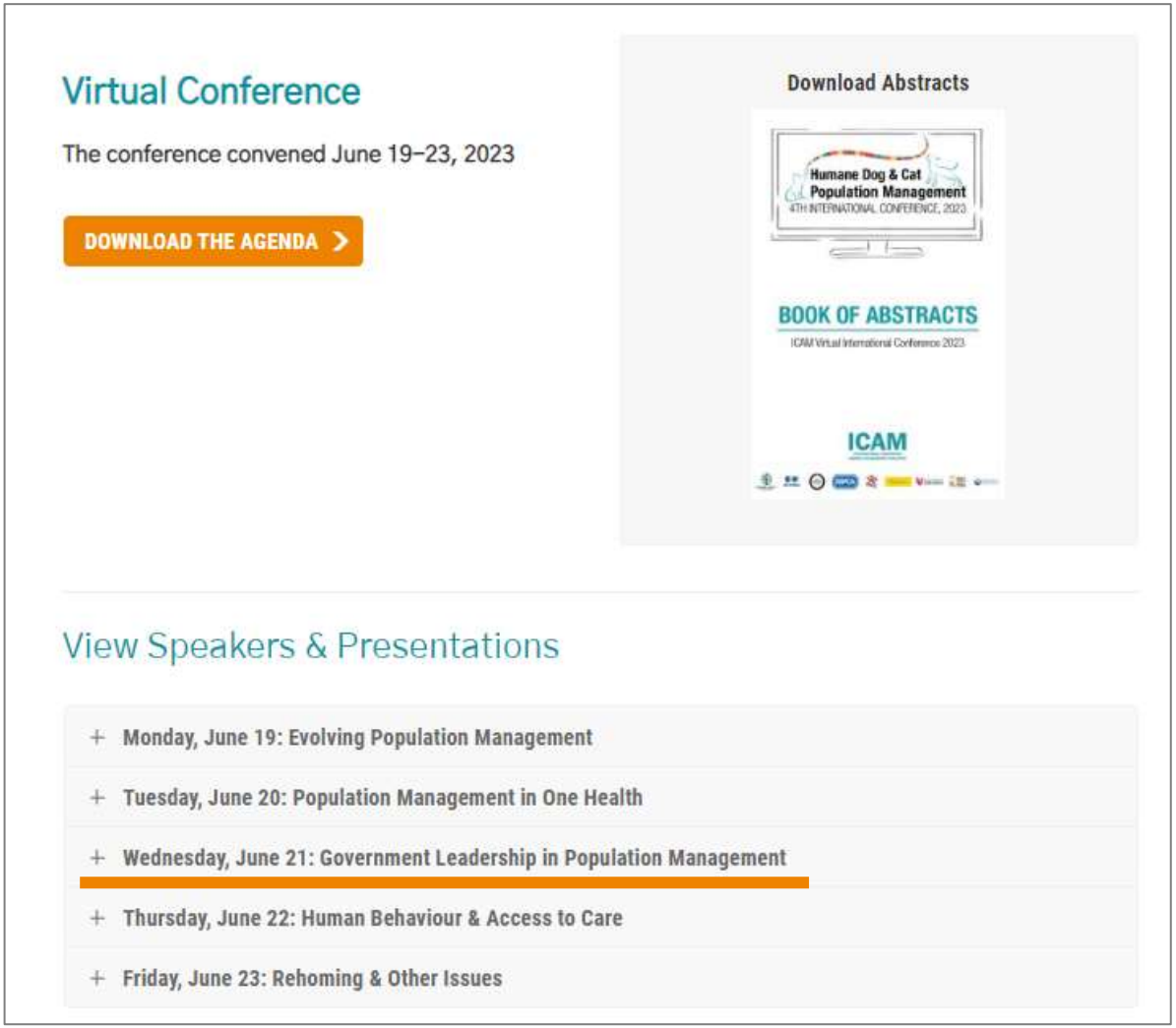
ICAM DPM resources

1. Guidance
2. Conferences and webinars



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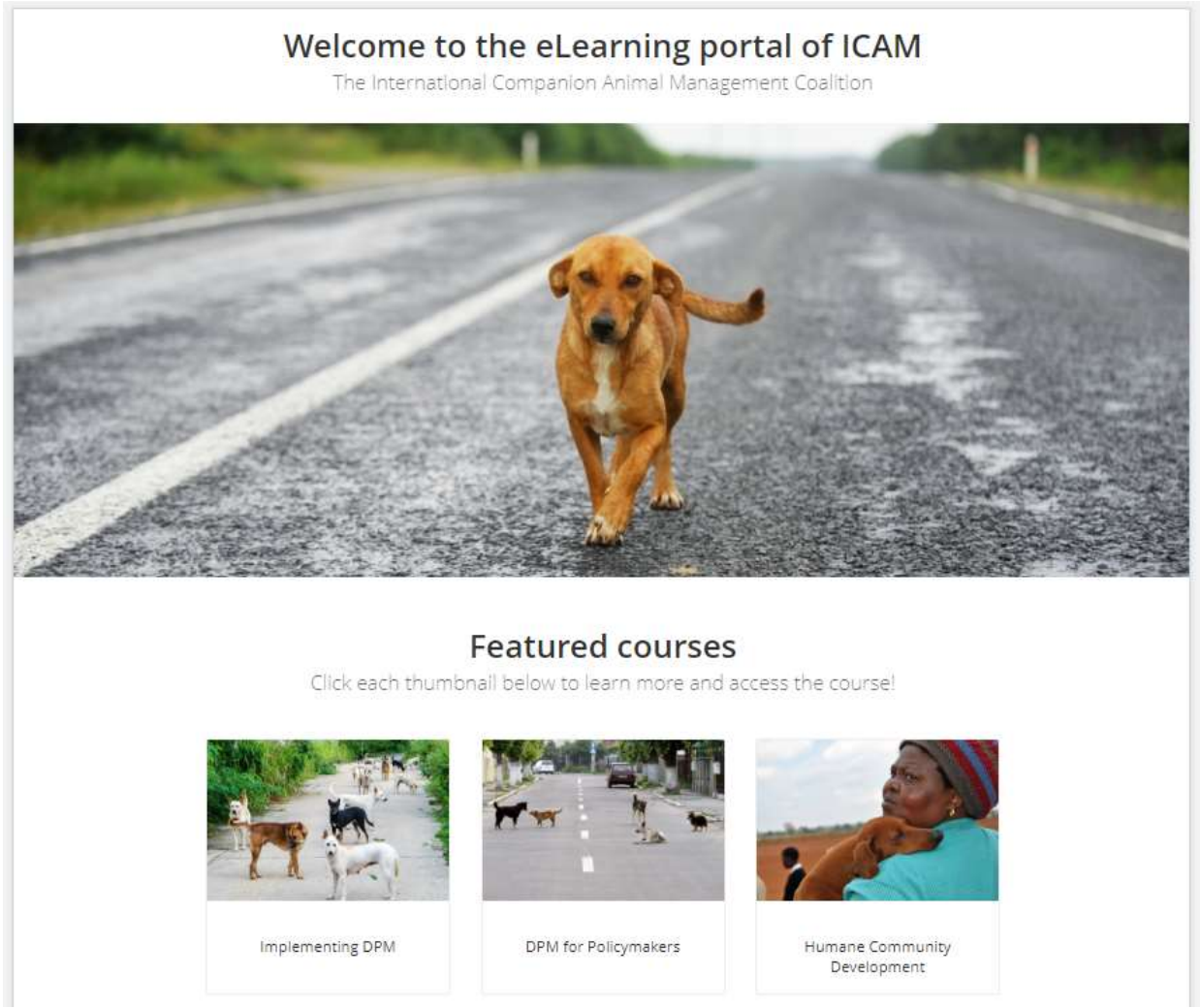
ICAM DPM resources

1. Guidance
2. Conferences and webinars
3. Courses



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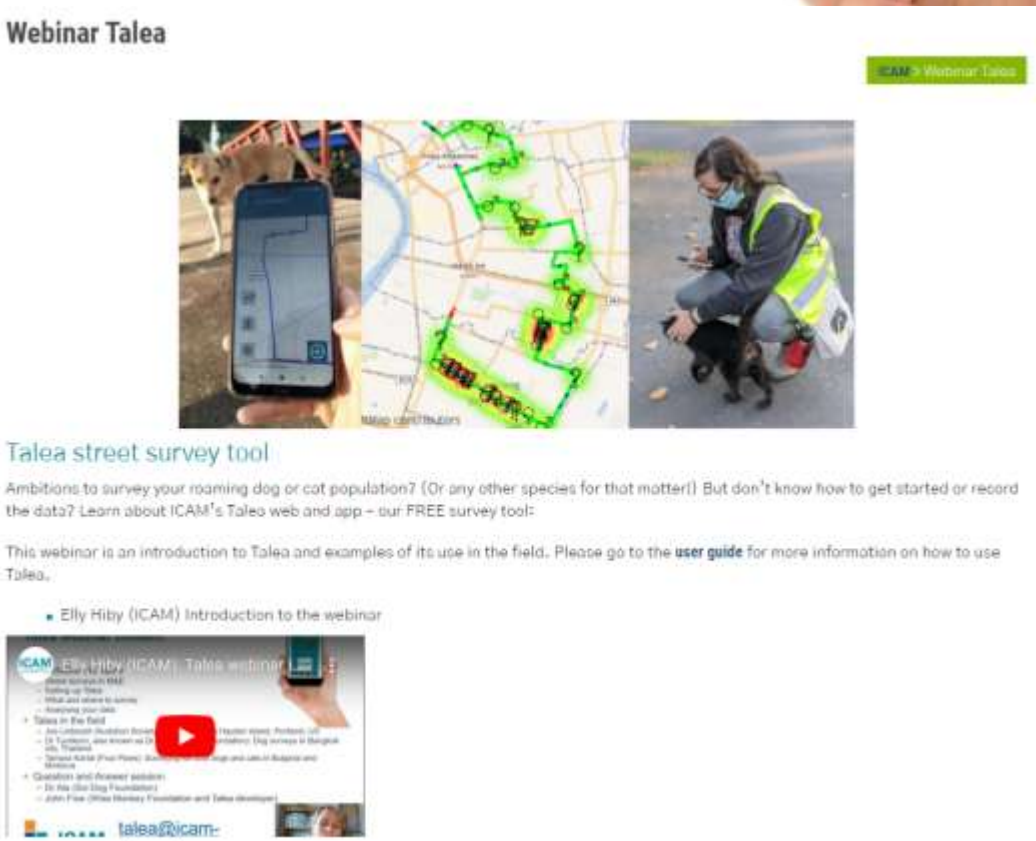
ICAM DPM resources

1. Guidance
2. Conferences and webinars
3. Courses
4. Tools



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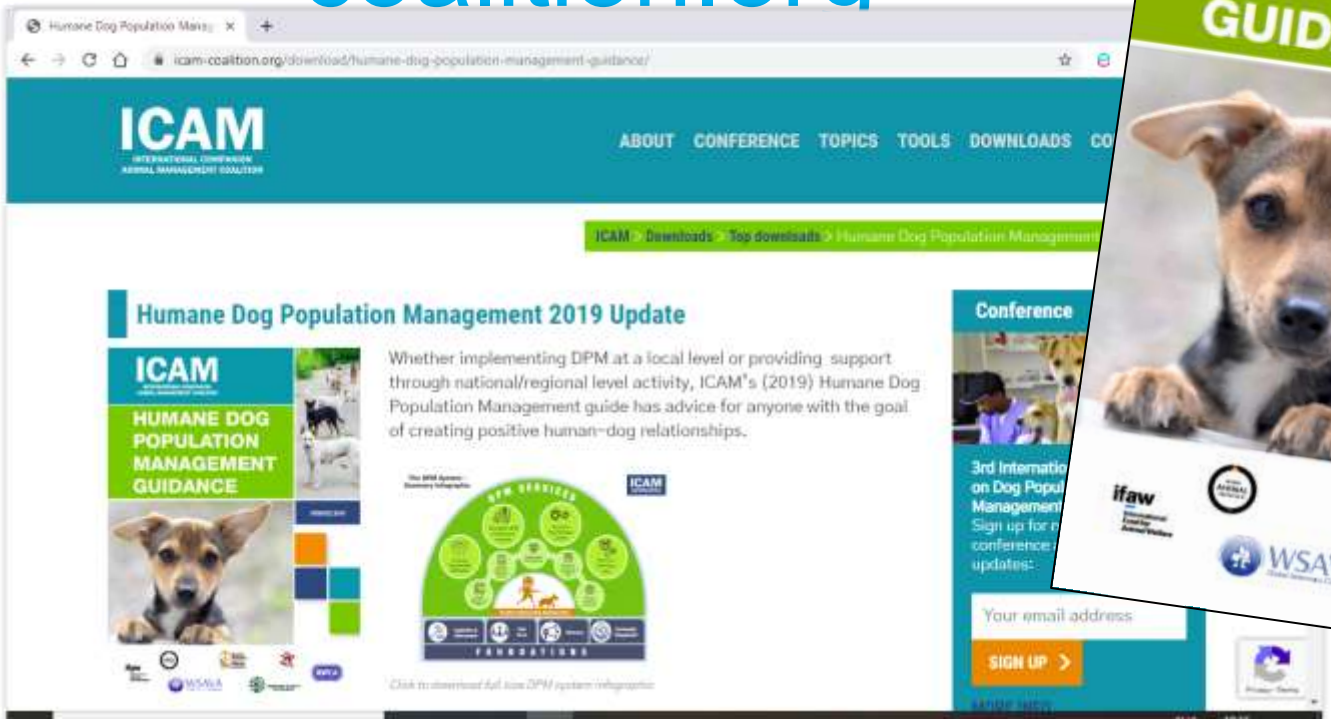
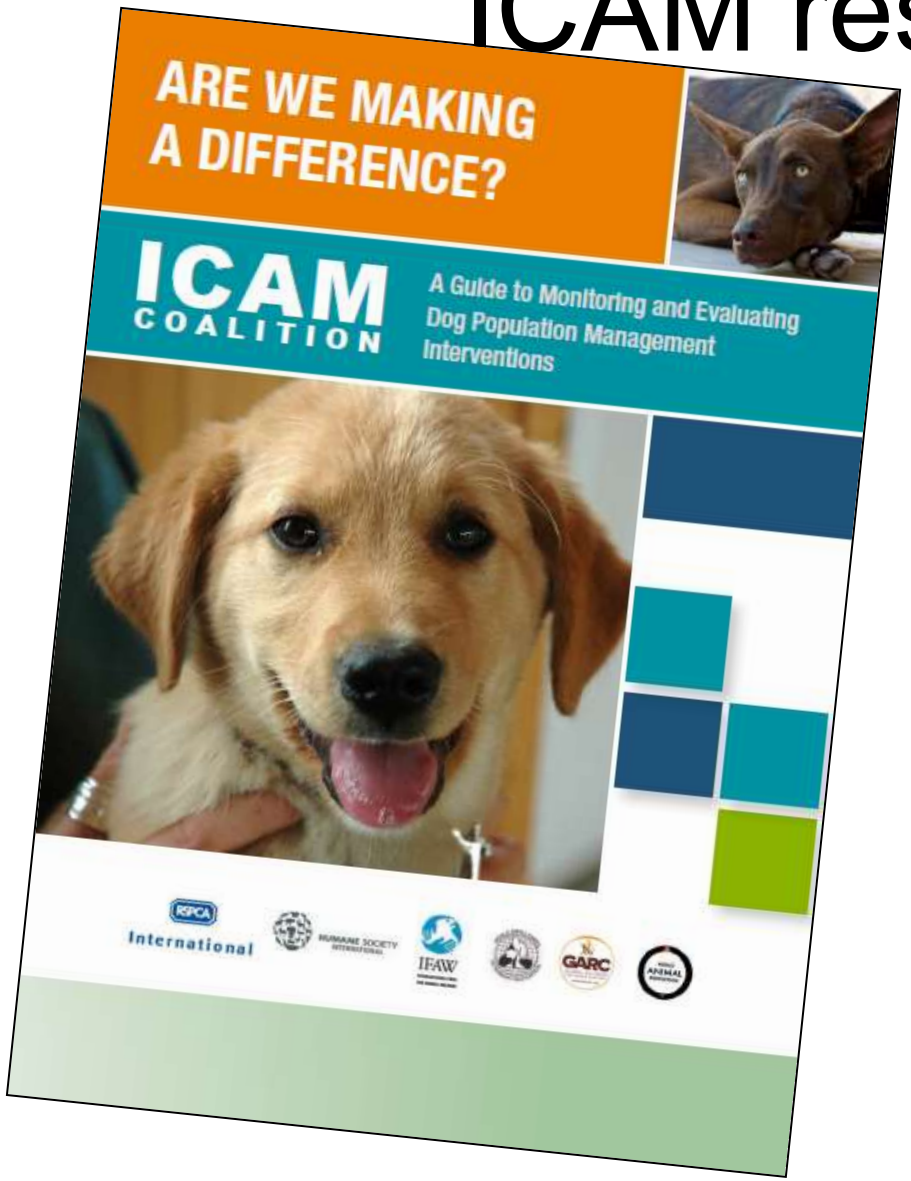
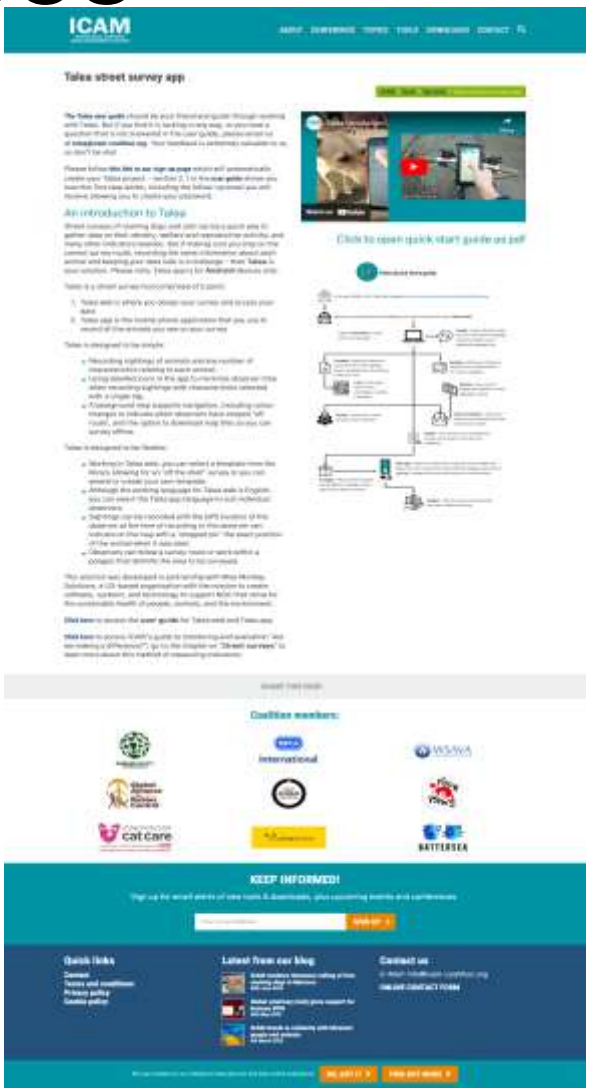
Download from www.icam-coalition.org



ICAM resources



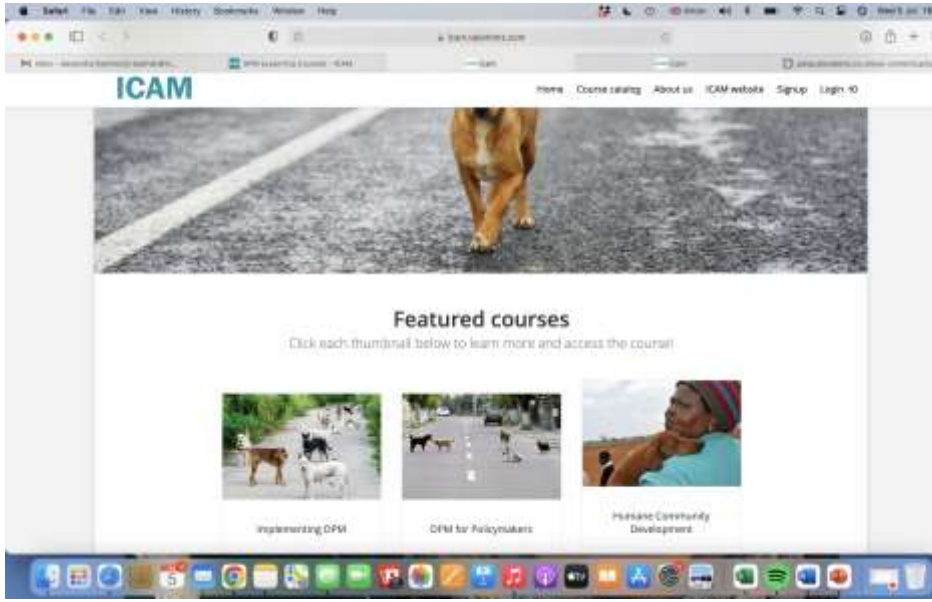


ICAM e learning portal
https://icam.talentlms.com

The two new courses are designed to meet the differing needs of DPM practitioners and policymakers:

1.Implementing DPM is an in-depth, seven-unit course for learners involved in planning, implementing, monitoring or evaluating dog population management.

2.DPM for policymakers is a shorter three-unit course designed for learners who are responsible for developing or refining policy relating to dog population management.



RAWC DPM training and Talea app

Regional animal welfare centre

Regional Animal Welfare Centre was established in 2012 and was hosted by by the Croatian Veterinary Institute– www.RAWC.eu

The main reason was to ensure long term sustainability for RAWC under a more formal umbrella.

In 2022 RAWC officially registered as an association with the main purpose of providing scientific and technical support to the stakeholders in the region.

RAWC

RSPCA.

Key objectives:

- To build structures and processes to actively share knowledge and expertise related to the implementation of EU legislation and international standards such as WOAH.
- To conduct a screening and elaborate a clear map of the current situation and the priorities in the region.
- To facilitate consistent implementation and enforcement of EU legislation and international standards through the provision of technical and scientific support.
- To develop knowledge strategies to overcome knowledge gaps and bottlenecks and to aassist with implementation of legislation.
- To increase stakeholders' awareness, engagement and co-operation in addressing animal welfare issues at the regional level.
- To develop collaboration with the key institutions working in animal welfare at the regional, European and global level.

It all started in 2008

- 2008 - Western Balkan Veterinary Network (wbvn.net) unique platform for the advancement of animal welfare in the Western Balkan region.
- 2018 Regional Animal Welfare Centre – www.RAWC.eu bases in Croatia.

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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, North 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**
  - 29 trainers trained

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The training of DPM trainers

- Held from 5th to 8th of July 2022 in Skopje, North Macedonia
- Conducted by Elly Hibby, PhD, an Independent Animal Welfare Consultant and Scientific Coordinator to the International Companion Animal Management (ICAM) Coalition

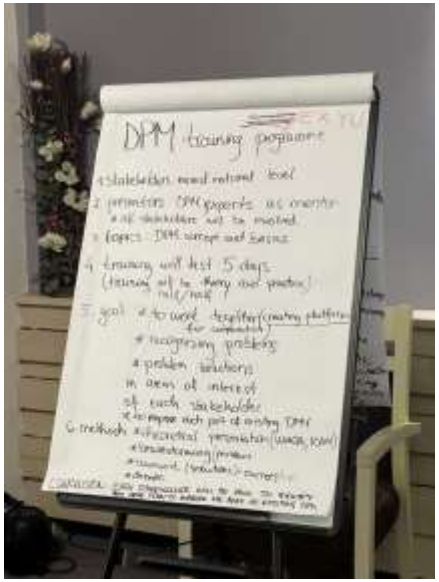
1st Training DPM Trainers in Skopje - 2018

- Trainees (5) represented different institutions from the region with different, but complementary backgrounds, all with the plan for further development of the regional DPM program which we hope to start implementing during 2018.

Workshop at the OIE 3rd Stray dog Workshop for Balkan countries - 2018

- RAWC received an invitation from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) to hold a workshop 3rd Stray dog Workshop for Balkan countries, in Belgrade.
- All our five trainers held a combined two hour workshop for participants at the OiE Regional Workshop on the topic on how to establish Dog population counting survey and setting indicators for dog population management.

- The training comprised theoretical courses, practical workshops as well as E-learning modules using an online platform and TALEA.



- It also included daily population monitoring on the streets and surveying the general public regarding the stray dog problem

12 New trainees from 4 countries.

3rd training of DPM managers Prizren 2024

- Training for Albanian speaking participants from Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro.
- The course covered principles of DPM, surveying methodologies such as TALEA and setting up surveys.
- Further 14 participants attended and completed the ToT course.

RAWC

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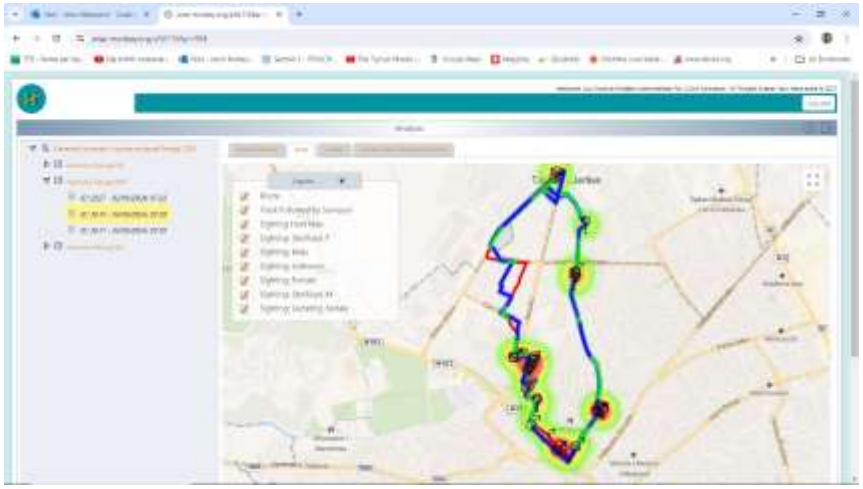
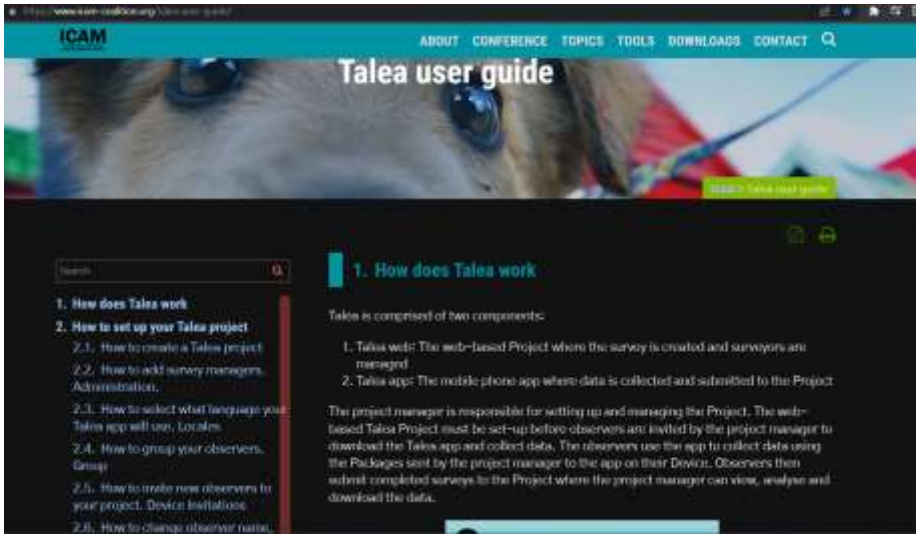


DPM Network

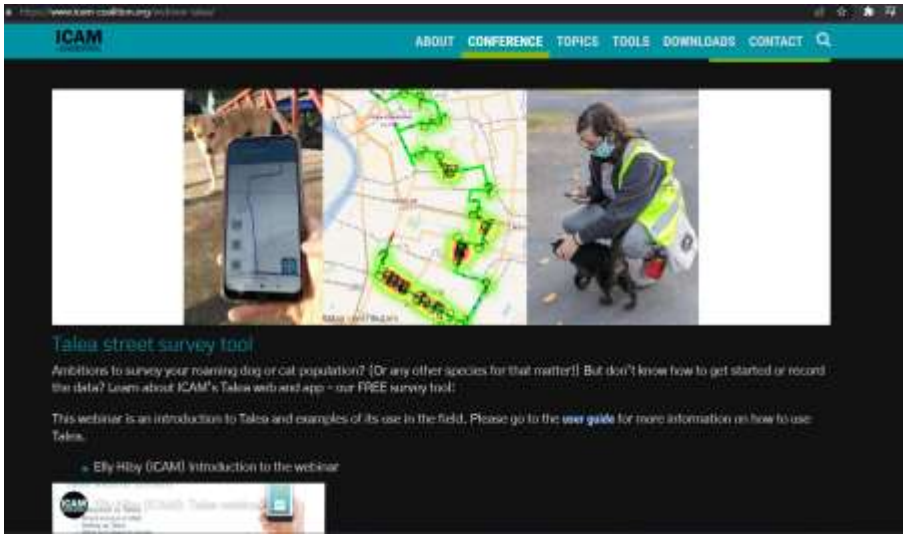
- Total 29 experts from 8 Countries thus far. Countries involved in these training events were – Bosnia (1 person), Croatia (2), Serbia (3), Slovenia (1), N. Macedonia (5), Kosovo (11) and , Montenegro (4), Albania (2). Our plan is to further build on this network of experts next year with the 4rd training in Montenegro.

Useful links

https://www.icam-coalition.org/talea-user-guide/



https://www.icam-coalition.org/webinar-talea/



BATTERSEA
GLOBAL
RESOURCES FOR SHELTERS
BATTERSEA

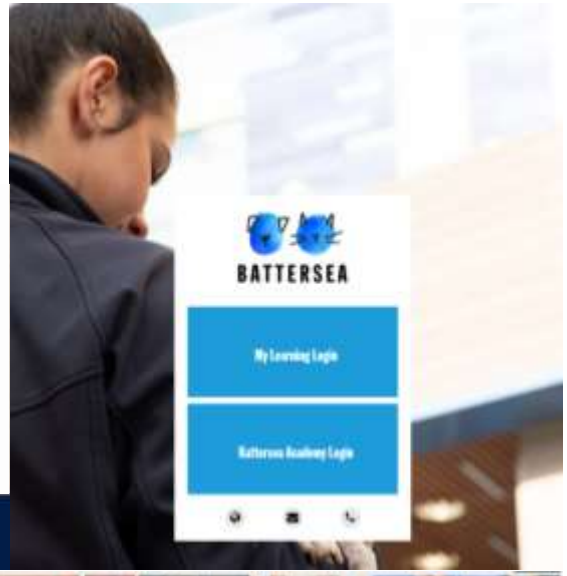
BATTERSEA ACADEMY

- “To enable every rescue to do the best with what they have”
- Provide a central ‘go to’ place for low or no cost professional development and training for staff and volunteers working in dog and cat shelters
- Provide best practice, cutting edge, evidence-based expertise in all aspects of shelter management
- Build an open network of rescues to exemplify the strength that comes from working together

OUR OFFER

- Professional development for staff and volunteers that work in rescue anywhere in the world.
- Courses in animal behaviour and welfare in the dog or cat rescue setting, focusing on shelter management.
- Organisational courses on governance, fundraising, marketing, mental health, safeguarding and others.
- We aim to provide organisations with a Learning and Development function when they're too small to have their own.
- We help you to map skills gaps in your organisation against our own courses and signposting to other content.
- **FREE** to any organisation with an annual income of less than £5m per year.
- Anyone in any role in a dog or cat rescue can access our training.

ACADEMY ONLINE



WELCOME TO ACADEMY ONLINE

ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR & WELFARE

ORGANISATIONAL & MANAGEMENT

UPCOMING WEBINARS

OUR FUNDS FOR DOG AND CAT SHELTERS

Learning Exchange Programme (any country)

- To advance change by encouraging collaboration and learning globally between rescues, government ministries/municipalities and/or other organisations that have a stake in dog and cat welfare.
- **To fund up to £4,000** towards one or two members of an organisation and/or ministry/municipality to spend a week at a host organisation anywhere in the world.

Greece country programme

- Battersea supports organisations that are taking a systemic approach, integrating ICAM good practice and guidance in their work.
- Up to 3 years
- No minimum or maximum amount

For more information visit here:
Working with other rescues | Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

Contact:
academy@battersea.org.uk
grantsandprogrammes@battersea.org.uk

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INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND ANIMAL WELFARE NGO

EXAMPLES FROM FOUR PAWS

Humane. Sustainable. Strategic. Community-driven.

2024

COMPONENTS OF DCPM AT FOUR PAWS

Animal Welfare. Worldwide.

Veterinary care

Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact

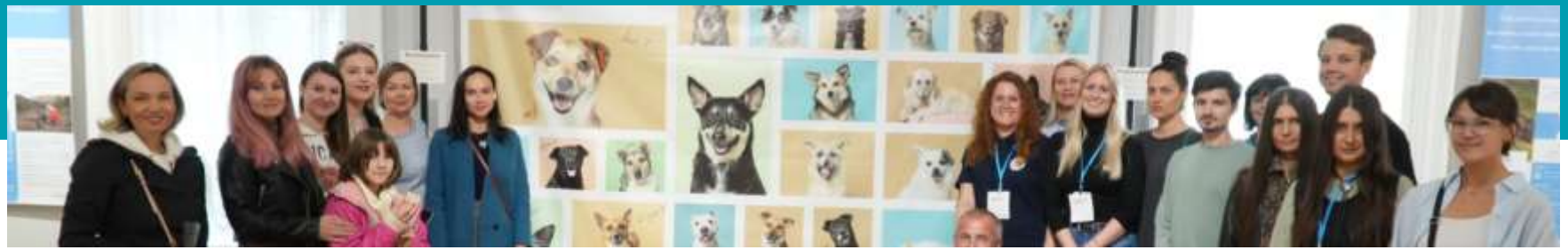
Community Engagement

Responsible Pet Ownership

Shelter Adoption Programme

Animal Assisted Interventions

EXP 1: MOLDOVA – FROM STRAY TO STAR



"**From Stray to Star**" a Stray Dog Art Exhibition is showcasing from 15th of October to 15th of November at **National Museum of History of Moldova**. The exhibition organized in collaboration with Chișinău Municipality, FOUR PAWS and Doctor Vet Moldova, aims to draw attention to Moldova's street animals, emphasizing that with care and love, they can transform into star. It also aims to encourage adoption while raising public awareness about the importance of responsible pet ownership and care giving.

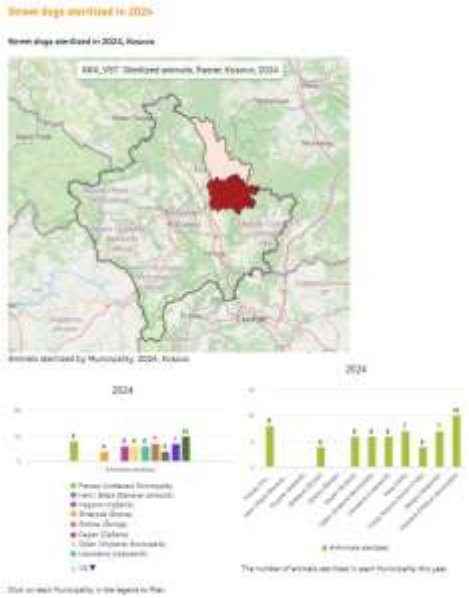
Chișinău's streets are home to an estimated 20,000 stray dogs, facing harsh conditions and little hope of finding homes due to a limited local adoption culture.

EXP 2: KOSOVO NATIONAL DOG MONITORING HUB

Animal Welfare. Worldwide.

EXHIBITION

- A collaboration between FOUR PAWS, Global Alliance for Rabies Control, Animal Rights Foundation Kosovo, and the National Working Group on DPM of Kosovo
- Aim: To provide a platform where data about street dogs meets strategy, transparency and impact measurement



Welcome to the National Dog Monitoring Hub for Kosovo.

Below, all data about dogs in the different municipalities across Kosovo will be available to you.

A collaboration between FOUR PAWS International, Global Alliance for Rabies Control, Animal Rights Foundation Kosovo, and the National Working Group of Kosovo, has resulted into the Kosovo National Dog Monitoring Hub. The aim of this Hub is to provide a platform where data about street dogs meets strategy, transparency and impact measurement.

The Hub brings existing software, tools, and applications, such as the survey application Talea, as well as the vaccination and sterilization tracker application, together. It supports the effective implementation of the National Dog Population Management Strategy in Kosovo and eventually will provide a detailed overview of the numbers of stray dogs in the whole territory of Kosovo.

Municipalities with available data:

Prishtinë | Fushë Kosovë | Graçanicë | Obiliq | Podujevë

EXP 3 - SHELTER ADOPTION ACADEMY

Animal Welfare. Worldwide.

FOUR PAWS believes that shelters should only provide a temporary home for dogs and cats prior to their adoption and should not be used to shelter animals in the long-term

Our aim is to turn shelters into adoption centers with increased adoption rates!

- Online & free for **shelter employees & volunteers**
- Creates **local adoption** culture
- Improve the **quality of life** for shelter animals
- Provides **sustainable solutions** for shelters
- Increases **adoption** rates

- **Shelter Adoption Academy is available in 10 languages;**

English, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Vietnamese, Bahasa, Thai, Russian, Serbian and Albanian

- Turkish, French and Arabic - work on progress

650 active users from over **60** countries

Scan the QR code and sign-up for FREE!

https://fourpaws.talentlms.com

SHELTER ADOPTION ACADEMY

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Shelter Resources

Image Credit: Richard Murgatroyd Photography

Resources (www.dogstrustworldwide.com)

International Training Programme

Presentations on everything from volunteer management; implementing human behaviour change interventions; canine behaviour; veterinary matters; to public affairs and fundraising.

https://www.dogstrustworldwide.com/resources/international-training/

ICAWC

Highlight presentations from previous International Companion Animal Welfare Conferences:

https://www.dogstrustworldwide.com/resources/international-companion-animal-welfare-conference/

Balkans Region (www.dogstrust.ba)

Focus

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina (since 2012)**
- Wide DPM programme, working closely with local and national government and other stakeholders

Other

- **Small number of DPM projects also supported currently in Serbia and Bulgaria**
- Advice and guidance provided also through Dogs Trust Bosnia office.

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