6th Regional Workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkan countries (DPMB6)

Country Report on national situation – Republic of Croatia

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World

Health



Organisation mondiale Organisation for Animal de la santé animale

Organización de Sanidad Animal



I. Understanding country

- situation
- Main problem \rightarrow abandoned and lost dogs
- No record of free roaming dogs
- No problems with diseases (e.g. rabies)
- Good legislative base in animal welfare and health related to pets (dog population)



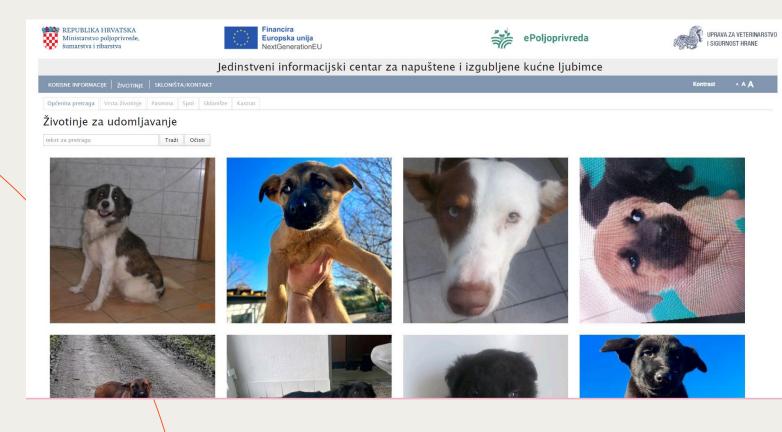
II. Control

- Since 2004. obligatory identification of 3 months old dogs with a microchip \rightarrow authorized veterinarians \rightarrow Lysacan database
- From 2021. marking before movement or changing ownership, at the latest 90 days of age with rabies vaccinaton (Animal Health Act, NN, no. 152/22, 154/22)
- Pet breeding control (Article 52., Animal Protection Act, NN no. 102/17, 32/19, 78/24)
- The manner of handling abandoned or lost animals is prescribed by general acts of the representative bodies of the local self-government unit.
- The body of the regional self-government unit adopts the Population control programme for abandoned dogs, taking into consideration the proposals of the coordination work group and delivering them to the competent authority for assessment (for 5 year period)



III. Monitoring and evaluation

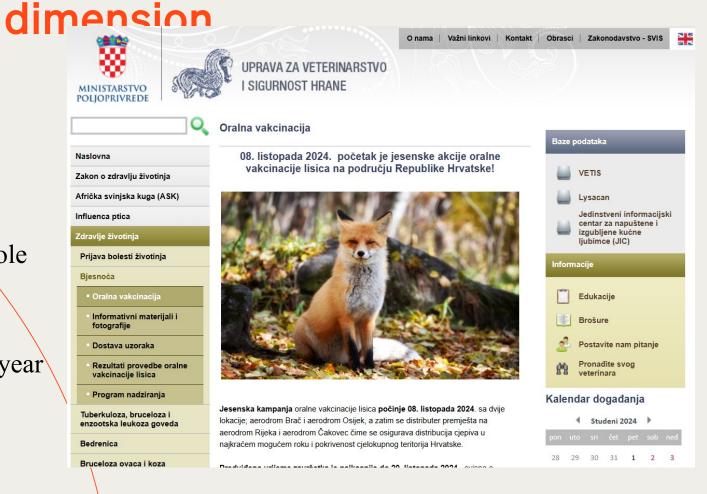
- Lysacan database
- JIC unique information center of abandoned and lost pets = all shelters of CRO
- Data from shelters and other stakeholders





IV. Rabies

- Last rabies case confirmed in red fox in 2014
- 2021 Croatia Rabies free country
- EU Reg (EU) 2021/620 15 April 2021
- Oral vaccination of foxes implemented in whole Croatia (island excepted)
- Active and passive rabies surveillance whole year at whole territory of Croatia





V. Conclusions and future needs

Conclusions:

- Strong legislative framework
- Effective rabies control
- Comprehensive tracking systems
- <u>Future needs:</u>
 - Strengthened collaboration: Increased coordination between local authorities, regional bodies and stakeholders for efficient implementation of population control programs and handling of lost/abandoned animals.
 - Awareness campaigns: Educating the public on responsible pet ownership, importance of microchipping and proper pet care to reduce abandonment rates.



Thank you

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