

6th WOAHA regional workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkans

Country Report on national situation

Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs

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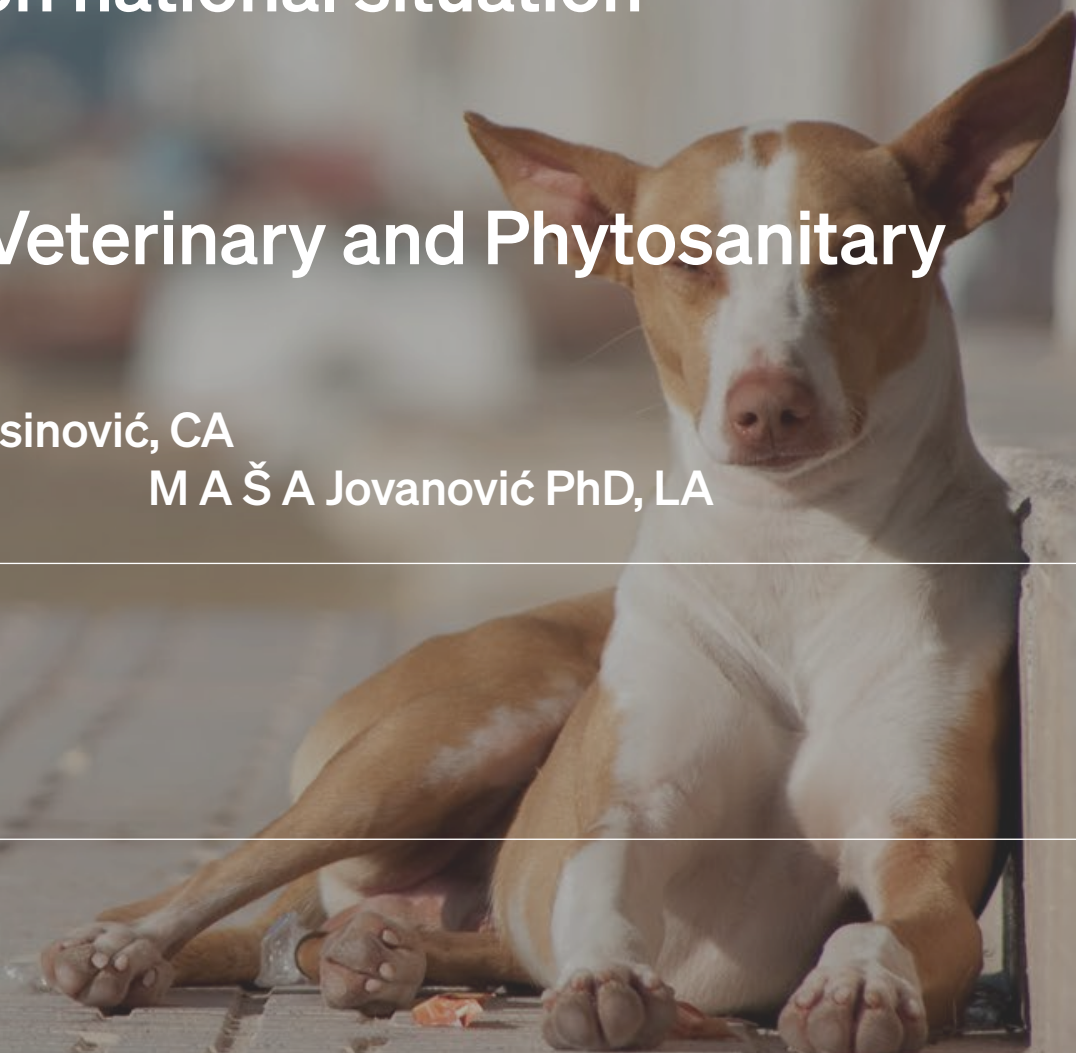
Sutomore, Montenegro



World
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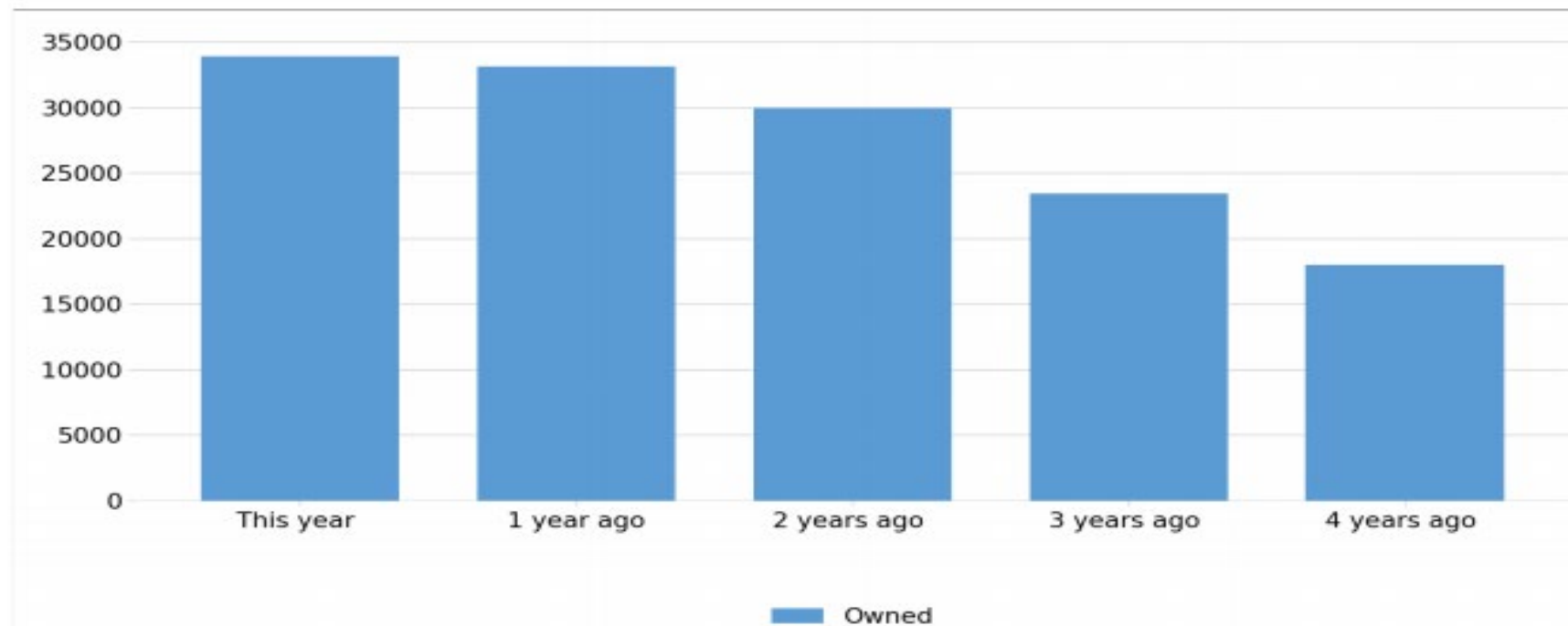
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I. Understanding country situation

1.A - WHICH IS THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF OWNED DOGS IN YOUR COUNTRY?





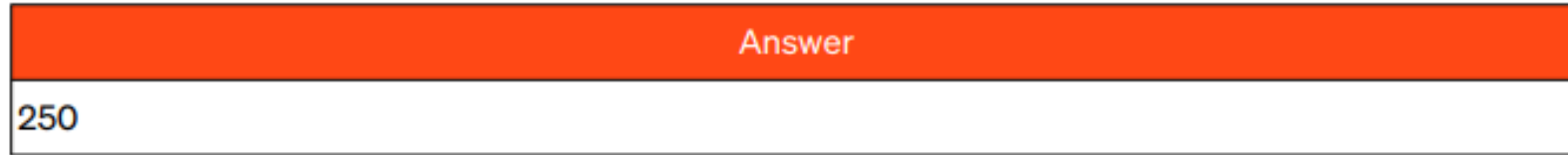
Methods are used to estimate the number of owned dogs

- Dog registration in a centralized database - Administration for Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs
- Responsibility for the data entry in the centralised database - Local Veterinary Ambulance
- Free-roaming dog population pose a problem:
 - Bite injuries
 - Zoonoses
 - Noise
 - Faecal pollution
 - Attacks to livestock
 - Traffic accidents
 - Attacks to wildlife
 - Transmission of diseases to wildlife

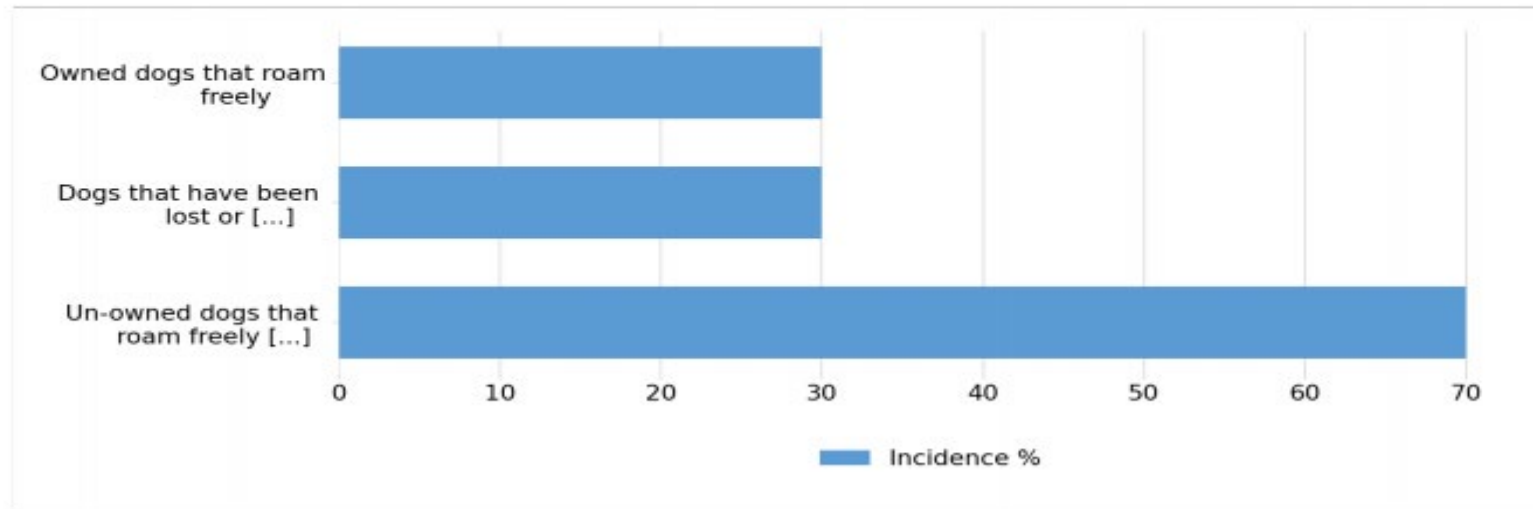


Both, in rural and urban areas

2.c - WHAT IS THE ANNUAL NUMBER OF FREE-ROAMING DOG BITES TO HUMANS IN YOUR COUNTRY?



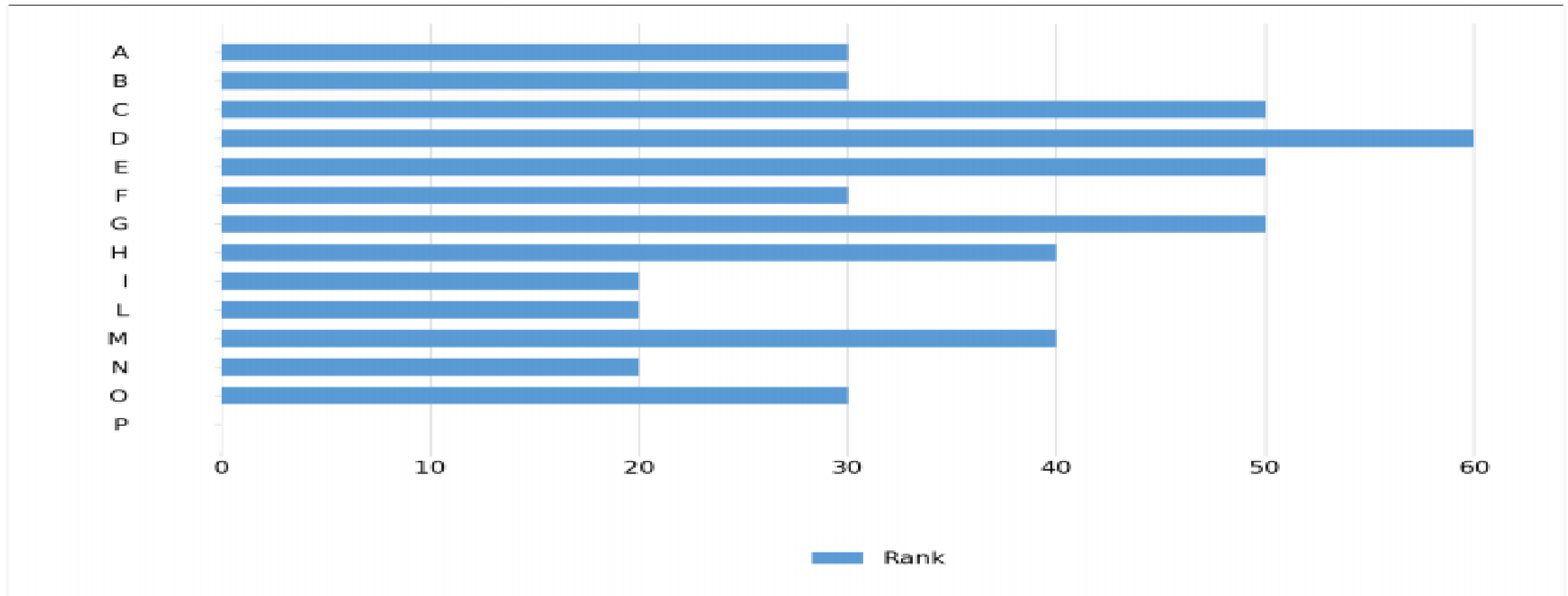
Sources' incidence



4.c - SPECIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT DRIVE THE OWNERS TO ABANDON THEIR DOGS

LEGENDA:

A = Behavioural Problems, B = Old age of the dog, C = Dog growth to be too large, D = Unexpected dog pregnancy, E = Owners moving to a different place, F = Landlords do not allow pets in the house, G = Lack of financial resources to take care of a sick animal, H = Lack of time to take care of a sick animal, I = Owner's death or illness, L = Increased cost of maintenance, M = No longer profitable (breeding, competitions), N = Birth of a child, O = Travel or vacation, P = Others



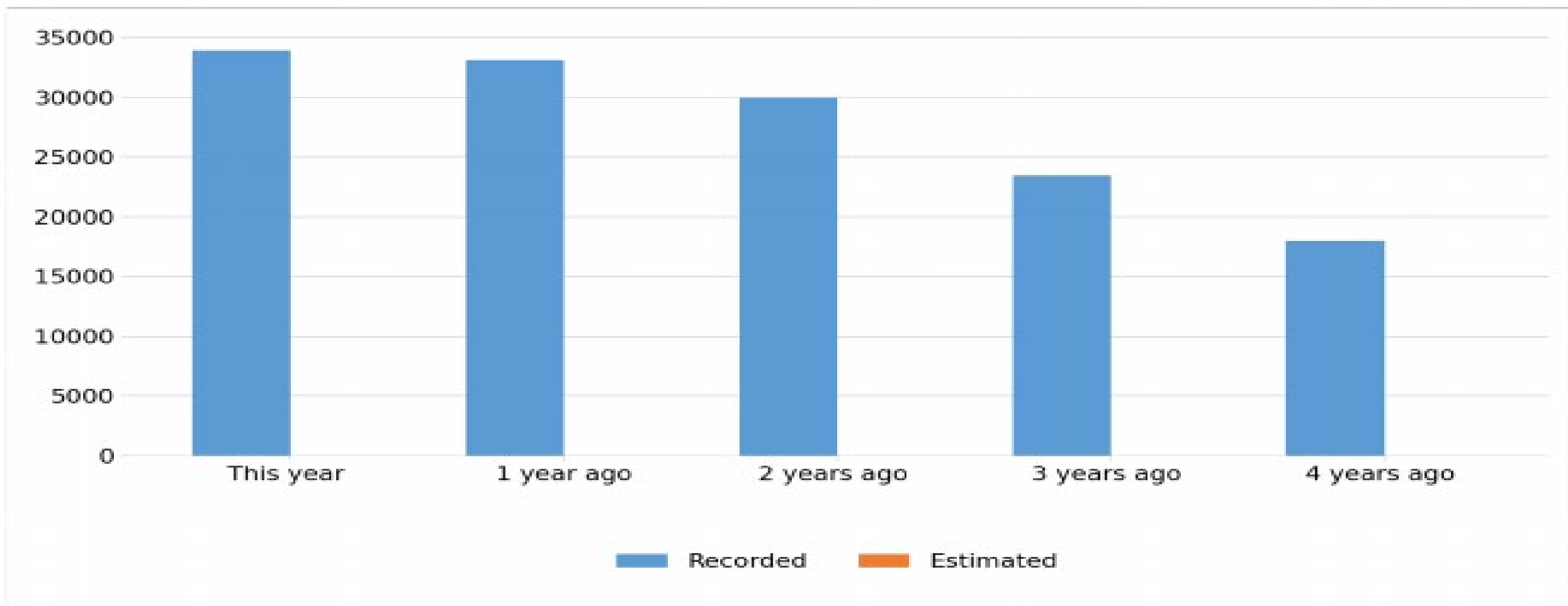


7. DOES YOUR COUNTRY HAVE THE NECESSARY REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE FOLLOWING KEY ELEMENTS IN ORDER TO HELP AUTHORITIES ESTABLISHING SUCCESSFUL DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT (DPM) PROGRAMMES?

| Answer |
|---|
| Owners' obligations regarding the principles of responsible dog ownership, including animal welfare: Yes |
| Animal welfare obligations of authorities:: Yes |
| Registration and identification of dogs in an animal identification system:: Yes |
| Registration, or authorisation and licensing of dog breeders and sellers:: Yes |
| Registration, or authorisation and licensing of dog shelters, rehoming centres and holding facilities: Yes |
| Licensing of veterinarians:: Yes |
| Licensing preparation, use and sale of veterinary medicinal products:: Yes |
| Dog movements and trade at international and national levels:: Yes |
| Vaccination against rabies and other preventive measures against zoonotic diseases as appropriate: Yes |
| Veterinary procedures (e.g. surgical procedures): Yes |
| Control of dangerous dogs: No |
| Environmental controls (e.g. abattoirs, waste management, dead stock facilities): Yes |

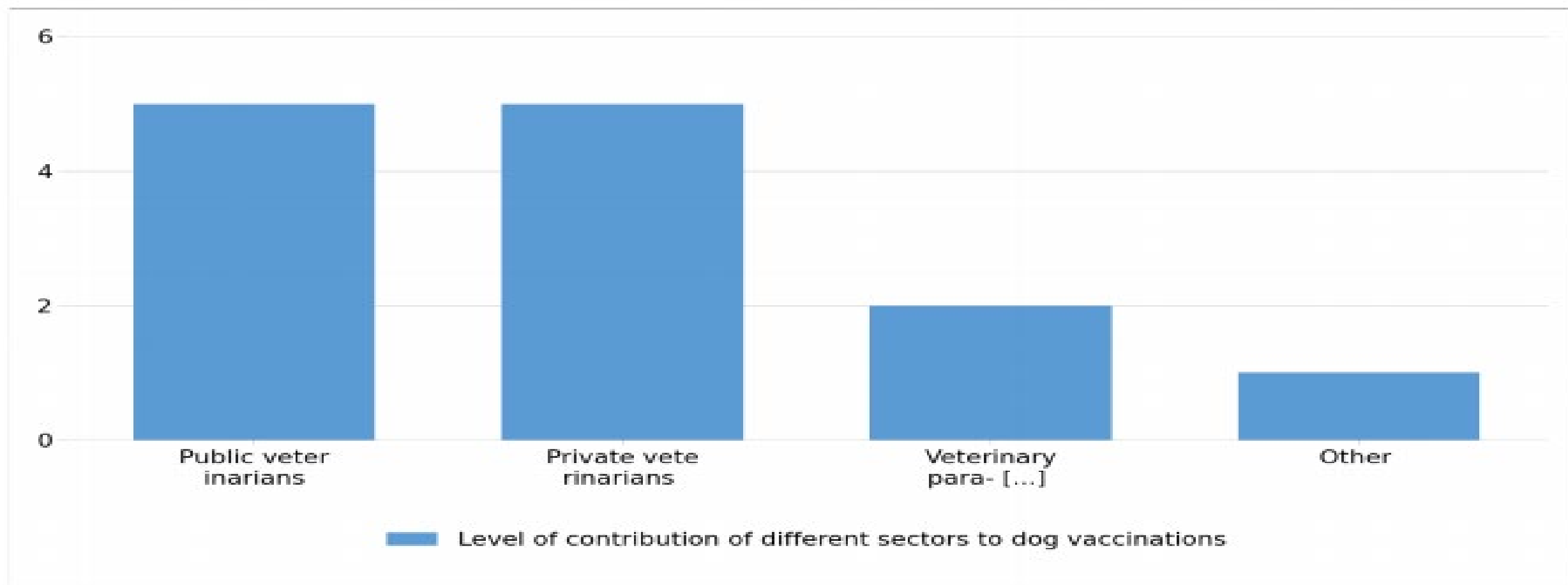


1B.i - HOW MANY DOGS ARE VACCINATED (RECORDED AND ESTIMATED) IN YOUR COUNTRY PER YEAR?



1B.j – PLEASE, RANK THE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS, IN DOG VACCINATIONS.

1 for no contribution, while 5 for maximum contribution





II. Control measures

11.e - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES ARE INCLUDED IN THE DPM PROGRAMMES IN PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY?

| Answer |
|---|
| Promote and establish responsible dog ownership |
| Improve animal health and welfare of dog populations |
| Reduce the number of free-roaming dogs |
| Stabilize the population by reducing turnover |
| Reduce the risks for public health and safety including dogs bites, traffic accidents and zoonotic diseases |
| Contribute towards eradicating dog-mediated human rabies |

13. ARE EDUCATION AND LEGISLATION FOR RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP IMPLEMENTED IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Answer

Provide appropriate care to ensure the welfare of the dog and any offspring according to the dog's five welfare needs (suitable, environment, suitable diet, housed with o...: Yes, both education and legislation

Encourage appropriate behaviours, reducing unwanted behaviours (including dog bites) and supporting the dog's ability to cope with its environment through attention to so...: Yes, both education and legislation

Ensure the registration and identification of dogs: Yes, both education and legislation

Prevent negative impacts of dogs on the community, via pollution (e.g. faeces, and noise), risks to human health through bites or traffic accidents and risks to other dog...: Yes, both education and legislation

Control dog reproduction: Yes, both education and legislation

Arrange for dogs to be cared for when the owner is unable to do so: Yes, both education and legislation

Prevent diseases, in particular zoonotic diseases (e.g. through regular vaccination in rabies endemic areas): Yes, both education and legislation

14. ARE DOG IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION LEGAL OBLIGATIONS IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Answer

Yes, both

15. WHICH IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM IS APPLIED IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Answer

Electronic Transponders (microchips)

Eartag

15-bis. WHICH REGISTRATION SYSTEM IS IN PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Answer

Dog registration in a centralised (national) database

Dog owners licensing

Dog sellers licensing

Commercial breeder licensing

16. IS REPRODUCTIVE CONTROL IN PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY (OWNED DOGS)?

Answer

Yes

16.a - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS ARE USED?

Answer

Surgical sterilisation

Confinement or separation of female dogs during oestrus from unsterilized males

16 - bis. IS REPRODUCTIVE CONTROL FOR UN-OWNED FREE-ROAMING DOGS IN PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Answer

No

16.c - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS ARE USED? (ART. 7.7.18 WOAH TAHC)

Answer

Surgical sterilisation



17. IS FREE-ROAMING DOGS REMOVAL IN PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Answer

Yes

18. IS CATCH AND RETURN, REHOMING OR RELEASE IN PLACE IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Answer

Catch and rehoming

Release in place (CNVR community dogs)

Catch, neutre, vaccinate and return

18.a - IN CASE DOG HOUSING FACILITIES ARE BUILT /INSTALLED, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS ARE TAKEN IN CONSIDERATION?

Answer

Facilities (sustainable finances, site selection, kennel size, design and occupancy, disease control measures, maximum capacity)

Management (provision of adequate fresh water and nutritious food, regular hygiene and cleaning; routine inspection, handling and exercise of the dogs; monitoring of physical and behavioural health and provision of required veterinary treatments; supervision, including routine and preventive veterinary care and euthanasia; policies and procedures to respect the maximum capacity for the facility and action when this is reached, assessment of dog health and behaviour; reporting to the Competent Authority; socialisation, enrichment and locomotory activity)

Assessment. (Dog housing performance: body condition score, skin condition, disease incidence, injuries and mortality, reaction to humans and expression of species -specific behaviour, emotional state; adequate space appropriate to the age, size, weight and breed of the dog; ventilation, light and other climatic elements)



22.a - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS ARE USED?

| Answer |
|--|
| Public awareness/education campaigns |
| Placing responsibilities on pet owners |
| Imposing penalties to irresponsible pet owners |

23. IS FREE-ROAMING DOG EUTHANASIA LEGALLY PERMITTED IN YOUR COUNTRY?

| Answer |
|--|
| Aggressive behaviour |
| Serious or incurable disease |
| Risk of disease transmission to humans |



III. Monitoring and evaluation

25. DO YOU MONITOR AND EVALUATE YOUR DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES?

Answer

Yes

How often do you do it?

Answer

Annually

26. DOES THE BUDGET FOR YOUR DPM PROGRAM(MES) INCLUDE FUNDS TO CONDUCT MONITORING AND EVALUATION ACTIVITIES?

Answer

Yes



27. FOR WHICH REASONS DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES MONITORING AND EVALUATION IS CARRIED OUT IN YOUR COUNTRY? ART. 7.7.12

Answer

To monitor change in the DPM programme objectives and evaluation of how DPM measures have contributed to those changes

To explore barriers and success in achieving programme objectives and adapt measures accordingly

Performance management of the implementation of DPM measures as indicated by their progress towards targets

For monitoring of costs to support cost-benefit analysis

Assuming methods are equivalent, to compare the success of strategies used in different locations and situations



28.a - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS ARE COVERED BY THE FREE-ROAMING POPULATION MONITORING AND EVALUATION?

Answer

Free-roaming dog population density, demography (age, sex, sterilisation, lactating females and puppies) and welfare (e.g. body condition score, presence of a skin problem) recorded by direct observation of free-roaming dogs

Dog population movement from owned to unowned or from confined to free-roaming

Shelter performance including intake, adoption and euthanasia rates

Dog bites and PEP rates

29. WHICH SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION PURPOSES DO YOU USE?

Answer

Feedback from the local community (e. g. through the use of structured questionnaires, focus groups or "open format" consultation processes)

Records and opinions obtained from relevant professionals (e. g. veterinarians, medical doctors, law enforcement agencies, educators)

Records obtained from public health authorities



Conclusions and future steps

❖ Main weak points:

- Not all LA adopted DPM plans
- Local shelters non existence or poor conditions
- Financial situation
- Jurisdiction and competencies of local and national services
- Absence of political support and dedication
- Low interest of community towards animal adoption



❖ Main needs:

- Awareness raising campaigns and education (general population, vulnerable categories, authorities)
- Human resources (lack of veterinarians)
- Establishment of an independent local units in charge of animal welfare control and protection
- Trainings of professional personnel (community organizations, veterinarians, NGOs)
- Cooperation with communities with examples of good practice

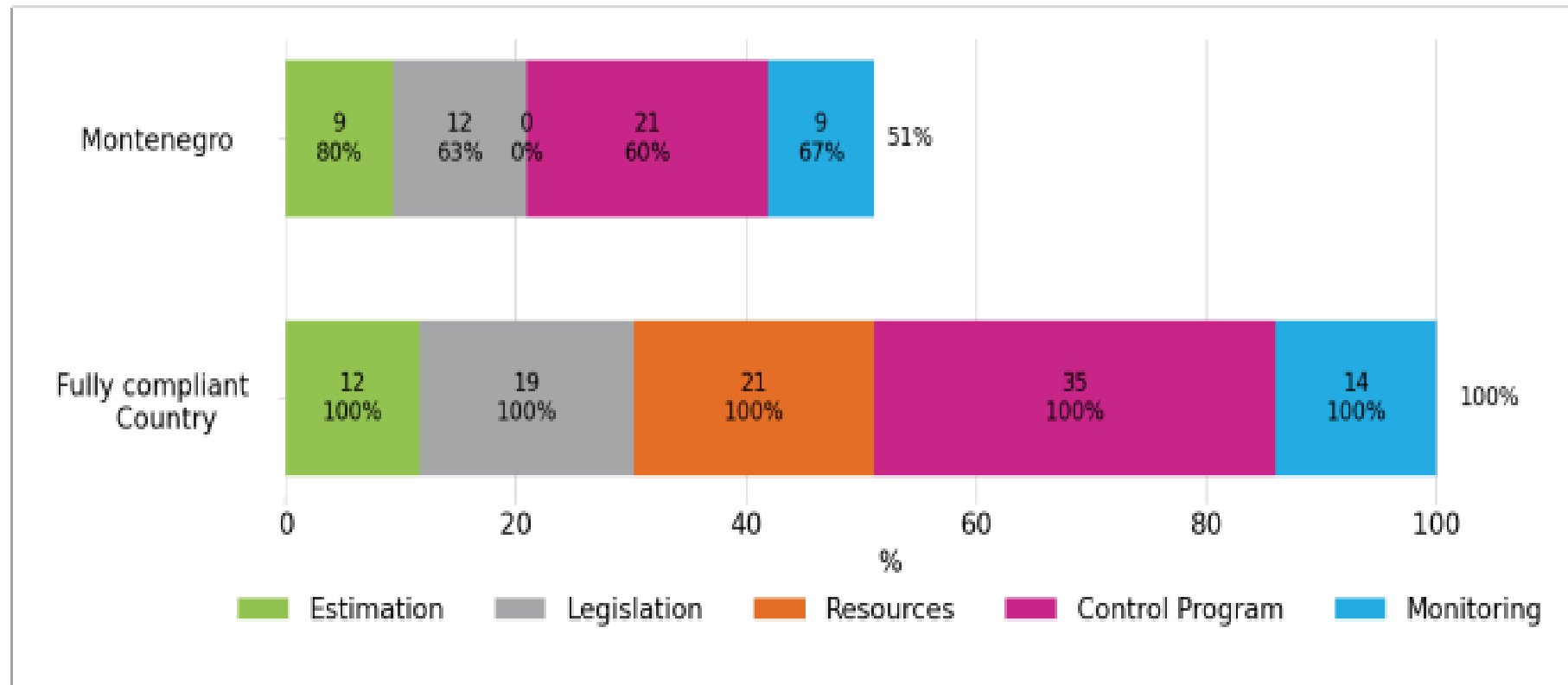


❖ Next steps:

- Adoption of new Animal Welfare Law
- DPM National Program (2025-2027)
- Promotion of DPM measures
- Cooperation with local authorities, production and distribution of promo-material
- Seminars for media (media awareness literacy regarding animal welfare topics)
- Campaigns for all stakeholders

- Harmonization level of MNE DPM with Chapter 7.7 WOAHA

Figure 1: level of implementation of the Standards set in Chapter 7.7 of the WOAHA TAHC





IV. Rabies dimension

Rabies epidemiological situation

- **Last year of occurrence of Rabies in domestic animals :**
Year 2012, 1 case - domestic cat, location Pljevlja municipality
- **Last year of occurrence of Rabies in wildlife :**
Year 2011, cases 21, locations: Nikšić (6), Podgorica (5), Šavnik (3), Kolašin (3), Žabljak (2), Pljevlja (2);
- **Last year of occurrence of Rabies in humans :**
(1974, one case)



- **Last year of occurrence of imported Rabies cases :**
 - **In animals** : *Never reported*
 - **In humans** : *Never reported*




Surveillance (Detection of rabies virus)

| Year | Number of tested animals-passive surveillance | | Number of tested animals-active surveillance | |
|------|---|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Total number | No of positive cases | Total number | No of positive cases |
| 2019 | 11 | 0 | 354 | 0 |
| 2020 | 8 | 0 | 284 | 0 |
| 2021 | 2 | 0 | 146 | 0 |
| 2022 | 10 | 0 | 38 | 0 |
| 2023 | 5 | 0 | 116 | 0 |
| 2024 | 3 | 0 | 15 | 0 |

- Passive surveillance: tests performed in suspect and dead wild animals (FAT/RT-PCR). If relevant, tests performed on **domestic animals** may be reported and differentiated (**number between brackets**).
- Active surveillance: tests performed in healthy hunted animals in the frame of the monitoring programme to verify effectiveness of vaccination.



Plans for 2025

| VACCINATION | YES | NO | STILL TO BE DECIDED | YES UNDER CONDITIONS <i>(please describe)</i> | Area | Period /dates | Comments |
|--|-----|----|---------------------|---|---------------|---|----------|
| ORV Campaign | | | | Yes, if our application for SMP HADEA is accepted | whole country | | |
| Spring campaign | | | | x | | | |
| Autumn campaign | | | | x | | | |
| SURVEILLANCE | | | | | | | |
| Passive surveillance | x | | | | | All year around | |
| Active surveillance <i>(like the one accompanying all ORV)</i> | x | | | | | During hunting season October-February | |
|  ve se describe) | | | | | | | |



Thank you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yvc3uAkDso>

Thank you



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