

6th regional Workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkan countries (SDB6)

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Country Report on national situation

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



Understanding country situation


- **Legislation on force, Law on animal Welfare and relevant Book of rules**
- **Municipalities are responsible for DPM (70 Municipalities and 10 within Skopje city limits)**
- **25 approved shelters (evenly distributed in the whole territory of the country) with total capacity of approx. 650 dogs.**



- **Fully operational I&R central database on dogs, cats and ferrets**
- **Fully operational I&R central database on stray dogs**
- **46 authorized persons for test on aggression on dogs**

MICROCHIPED AND REGISTERED PETS

YEARS	DOGS	CATS	FERRETS	TOTAL
2015	254	13		267
2016	436	28		464
2017	2918	224		3142
2018	21559	992		22551
2019	50228	2155	1	52384
2020	9443	763	1	10207
2021	13534	1392		14926
2022	11850	1289		13139
2023	10149	1375		11524
Up to 28.10.2024	7844	1197		9041
TOTAL	129778	9445	2	139225

Two blue arrows are overlaid on the table. One arrow points from the top-left towards the 2018 row, and the other points from the bottom-left towards the 2019 row. The 2018 and 2019 rows are also highlighted with blue circles around the 'DOGS' column values.

STRAY DOGS DATABASE

YEAR	BROUGHT BY OWNER	CATCHED	REHOMED	RELEASED	EUTHANASIA	DEATH
2020	1	49	8	31	1	0
2021	25	1638	172	992	194	25
2022	34	1961	264	1212	153	83
2023	16	3090	395	2402	301	102
2024	5	2081	328	1607	113	69
TOTAL	81	8819	1167	6244	762	279
	10067					

TEST ON AGGRESION		
NOT AGGRESSIVE	AGGRESSIVE	TEST NOT PERFORMED
53	0	5
1370	153	312
1883	150	226
3099	228	174
2122	90	202
8527	621	919



TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY ANIMALS

YEAR	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
TOTAL	199	174	182	262	134	219	1170



DOG BITES

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
TOTAL	249	640	992	1069	1321	1723	2116	8110



LEISHMANIOSIS

YEAR

HUMAN CASES

2021

2

2022

9

2023

1

2024

1

RABIES VACCINATION

YEAR	DOGS	CATS	FERRETS	TOTAL
2016	5	3	0	8
2017	851	100	0	951
2018	7469	479	0	7948
2019	26666	1220	0	27886
2020	12549	737	0	13286
2021	16964	1307	0	18271
2022	26935	1822	1	28758
2023	17962	1668	0	19630
28.10.2024	23729	1900	0	25629
TOTAL	133130	9236	1	142367



REMAINING GAPS

- REGISTRATION OF DOG BREEDERS (AMANDEMENTS OF THE LAW WHICH IS STUCK IN BIROCRATICAL PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTION)
- REPRODUCTIVE CONTROL ON OWNED DOGS
- ENFORCEMENT OF THE LEGISLATION-THE FINES ARE VERY LOW
- LACK OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE DPM AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL (BASED ON MEASURABLE INDICATORS)
- NATIONAL DOG POPULATION STRATEGY
- STRAY DOG SURVEY? ONLY A FEW MINICIPALITIES DO THIS
- RAISING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN (TO BE CONSTANT)



Dog population management from municipal shelter perspective





I. What we do as veterinary ambulance on controlling stray dog population?

- Two shelters for stray dogs - capacity of 35 individual boxes
- Agreements with several municipalities (Demir Hisar, Mogila, Krushevo, Ohrid, Kichevo, Debar, Centar Zhupa, Mavrovo, Dolneni) for treating stray dogs based on method: Trap-Neuter-Return



- Every trapped dog is tested for socialization, aggressiveness and has a mandatory test for Leishmania disease in reference laboratory
- After this, all the dogs that passes these tests are marked with ear tag and chip, get vaccine for rabies and treatment for internal parasites
- Aggressive stray dogs (that do not pass the socialization test if are not adopted after 30 days are euthanized

II. Trapping stray dogs

- As vet ambulance we work with stray dogs with municipalities in the past 6 years
- The main method we use to catch stray dogs is the method with a pneumatic weapon that contains anesthetic.
- In 80% of caught dogs we used the method with anesthetic
- Reason for this:
 - Overly aggressive and fearful dogs
 - Increased work efficiency
- If we estimate that the stray dog is friendly and non aggressive we catch the dog by hand
- If we sum up from all the municipalities with which we have agreements, in total during one calendar year our shelter treats around 800 stray dogs



III. Why we still have difficulties in establishment of proper stray dogs control system?

system?

- Limited finances provided by the municipalities for stray dogs programs
- Irresponsible dog ownership, and the main issue is
- **NON-FUNCTIONTIONAL SYSTEM** for control and penalties of all irresponsible pet owners!!!
- Children are bored and don't want to have a dog anymore
- Working hunting dogs left on the street due to old age or illness
- Dogs used in illegal dogs fights left on the street
- Shepherd or farm dogs that are old, not protecting the flock or they reproduce uncontrolled

❑ Some municipalities such as Kichevo, Resen, Debar have landfills that are very close to the cities (around 1.5 km). These landfills are hotspot for uncontrolled breeding and a permanent new inflow of the stray dogs to the cities

❑ It's permanent issue and we need a different approach in order to cope with it



- ❑ In Macedonia is mandatory for every municipality to has a program for coping of stray dogs and in the past 6 years we have progress on this issue, but still the problem with the stray dogs persist
- ❑ We have to notice that we lack the first battle line, which is the functioning of the law, especially in the area of penalties for irresponsible ownership
- ❑ If we want to have streets without stray dogs, our country need to be more focused on solving the problem, and again it all begins with implementation of the legal acts by authorities
- ❑ WE CANNOT DRINK THE SEA UNTIL THE SOURCES OF THE RIVERS ARE STOPPED





- Despite the efforts made by the municipalities together with the operators that perform CNR, we need a systemic solution to overcome the problem of stray dogs
- **Adopting relevant amendments of the Law of animal welfare (control on reproduction and registration of dog breeders)**
- **Proper enforcement of the legislation**
- Our country need to focus on preparing and implementation of **NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DOG POPULATION CONTROL WITH AN ACTION PLAN**, adapted to the local dynamics for each municipality, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Dog Population Control Program is implemented.
- **Establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system on local level (stray dog surveys on a regular basis and monitoring of a set of measurable indicators)**
- By prioritizing both animal welfare and public safety, communities can create sustainable solutions for stray dog populations.



Thank you

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