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Country Report on national situation

6th regional Workshop on Dog Population

Management

for Balkan countries (SDB6)

Suto More, Montenegro 5-7 November, 2024



Organisation isation mondiale imal de la santé n animale

on 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 |

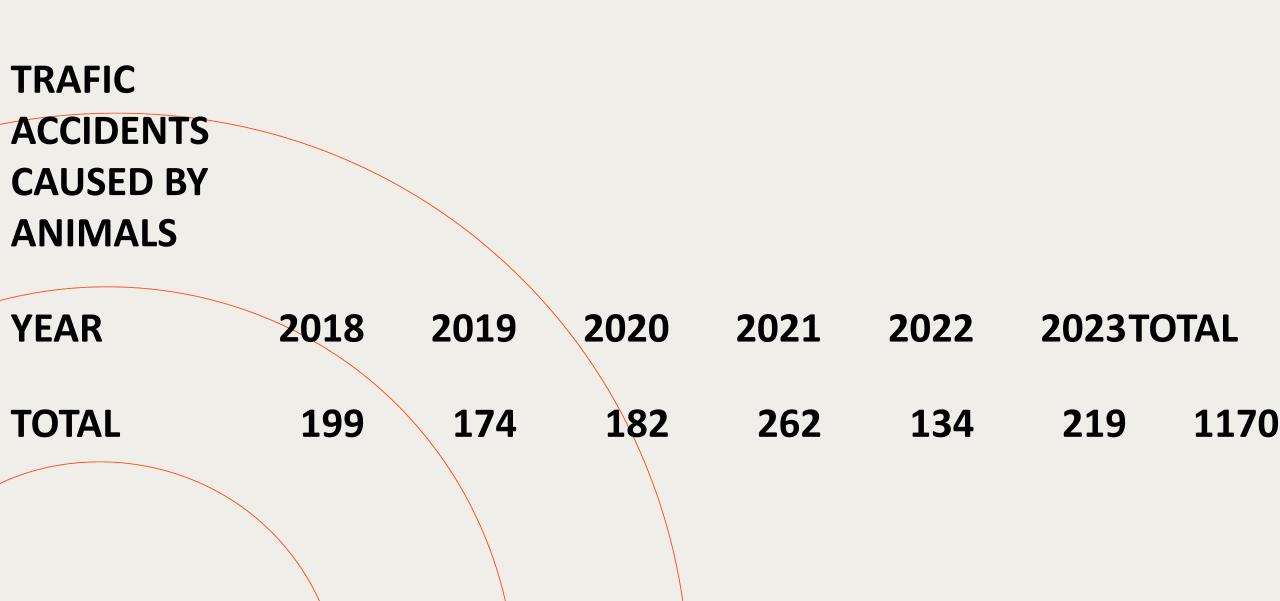
STRAY DOGS DATABASE

| YEAR | BROUGT 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 |
| TUTAL | | 10067 | | | | |

TEST ON AGGRESION

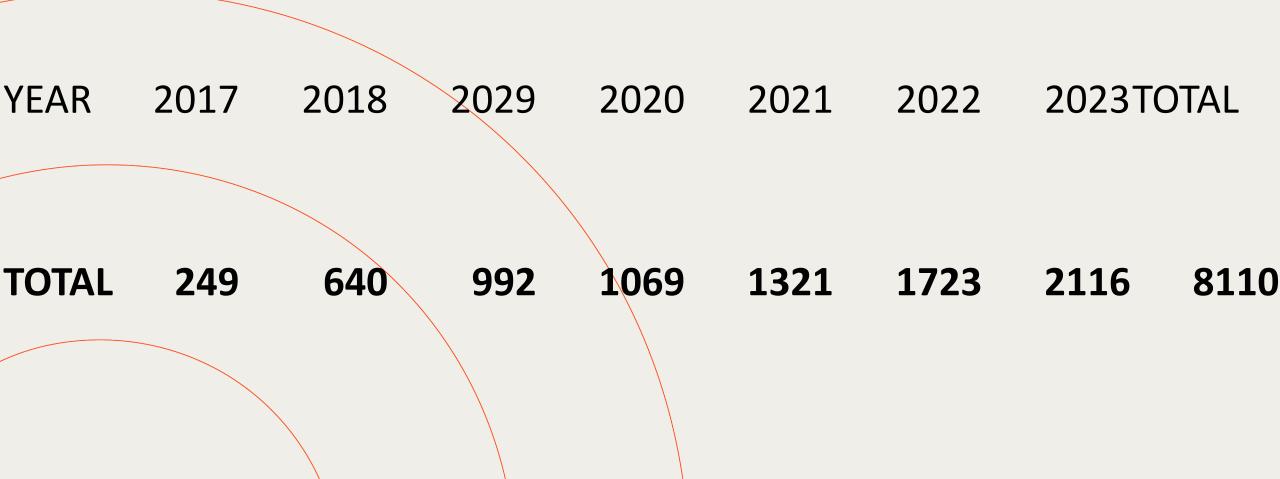
| NOT AGGRESSIVE | AGGRESSIVE | TEST NOT PERFORMED |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 53 | 0 | 5 |
| 1370 | 153 | 312 |
| 1883 | 150 | 226 |
| 3099 | 228 | 174 |
| 2122 | 90 | 202 |
| 8527 | 621 | 919 |







DOG BITES





| LEISHMANIOSIS | | | |
|---------------|------|-------------|---|
| YEAR | | HUMAN CASES | |
| | 2021 | | 2 |
| | 2022 | | 9 |
| | 2023 | | 1 |
| | 2024 | | 1 |
| | | | |

RABIES VACCINATION

| | DOCC | CATC | | TOTAL |
|------------|---------|--------|---------|--------|
| YEAR | DOGS | CATS | FERRETS | TOTAL |
| 201 | 6 5 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| 201 | 7 851 | . 100 | 0 | 951 |
| 201 | 8 7469 | 479 | 0 | 7948 |
| 201 | 9 26666 | 5 1220 | 0 | 27886 |
| 202 | 0 12549 | 737 | 0 | 13286 |
| 202 | 1 16964 | 1307 | 0 | 18271 |
| 202 | 2 26935 | 1822 | 1 | 28758 |
| 2023 | 3 17962 | 1668 | 0 | 19630 |
| 28.10.2024 | 23729 | 1900 | 0 | 25629 |
| TOTAL | 133130 | 9236 | 1 | 142367 |



REMAINING GAPS

- REGISTRAITION 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?

- 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 cites (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



system?

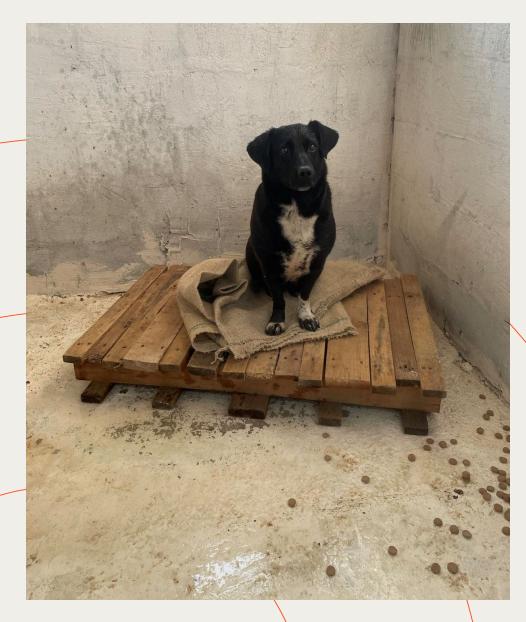
- In Macedonia is mandatory for every municipality to has a program for coping of stray dogs and in the past
 6 years we have progress on this issue, but still the problem with the stray dogs persist
- We have to notice that we lack the first battle line, which is the functioning of the law, especially 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



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IV. Conclusions and future needs



- 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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