

5th WOAAH regional workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkans

5-7 November 2024

Sutomore, Montenegro



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal





I. Understanding country situation

1. Government Emergency Ordinance No 155/2001 on the approval of the programme for the management of stray dogs - updated in 2023.

2. Government Decision no. 1059/2013 for approving the methodological norms of application of GEO no. 155/2001 -currently under amendment and completion. Draft GD for amending GD no. 1059/2013 – great interest from the public. A public debate was organised in September, 2024.

Under the two normative acts, local authorities have the obligation to set up specialized services for the management of stray dogs – depending on the needs.



I. Understanding country situation

GEO No 155/2001 - According to the update in 2023:

- county authorities are also responsible for setting up such services, leading to a better management of stray dog population;
- local and county authorities can provide funds for sterilization, identification and registration of owned dogs of common breed so that uncontrolled reproduction is prevented, in accordance with Chapter 7.7 of WOAHA TAHC.

In Romania - 2 types of shelters: - public (local and county authorities) and

- private (NGOs)



II. Control measures

- **Competent Authority for Dog Population Management: local authorities**
- **Identification and registration of owned dogs = legal obligations**
- **According to RECS (our national database), there are 4.943.364 owned dogs**
- **Sterilization of common breed dogs - in accordance with Chapter 7.7 of WOAH
TAHC**



III. Monitoring and evaluation

1. Annual monitoring of activity (Dog Population Management program) of the local authorities – performed by the central veterinary authority;

Among the sources of information used for monitoring and evaluating = records and opinions from relevant professionals (e. g. veterinarians)

2. Checks for persons owning many dogs, according to the protocol concluded by NSVFSA with the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police.



IV. Rabies dimension

Year	Dogs (domestic and stray)	Other domestic animals - cattle	Camelides	Jackals	Foxes	Other wildlife - badgers
2022	6	15	0	0	7	0
2023	4	28	0	0	18	1
2024	6	8	0	0	7	0



V. Conclusions and future needs

Examples of success:

1. ASPA (Authority for Surveillance and Protection of Animals) – public service within Bucharest City Hall involved in management and stray dogs:

- regular adoption campaigns;

- regular sterilization campaigns (owned dogs of common breed and owned cats).

<https://aspa.ro/>

2. Animal Protection Department within Ilfov County council:



V. Conclusions and future needs

Ilfov County Council main activities:

I. MASSIVE SPAY AND NEUTERING CAMPAIGNS

Ilfov County Council has sterilized in less than three years of activity almost 11.000 animals, dogs and cats.

The Animal Protection Department works on all levels:

- **the campaigns target dogs and cats with owners;**
- **stray dogs and cats and animals from disadvantaged areas and industrial zones.**

Sterilization campaigns are funded from two types of sources:

- ***from its own budget* - for the first time, Ilfov County Council is doing this from its own budget, as we managed to change the law, allowing all the County Councils in Romania to finance free sterilization campaigns;**
- ***funds from NGOs and associations.***



V. Conclusions and future needs

II. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- **Ilfov County Council runs door-to-door information campaigns on the benefits of sterilizing animals.**
- **From this year on, animal welfare has also become an optional subject - „*Class with and for animals*” - in Ilfov schools, at the initiative of Ilfov County Council. It is a class on what the human-animal relationship should mean, designed as a debate, interactive, but also with homework that stimulates creativity or movies to watch during free time.**



V. Conclusions and future needs

III. ANIMAL ADOPTION

- ***“Umple golul din viața ta”*** (Fill the void in your life) – Football players from the 1st League entered the official games with dogs available for adoption in their arms. The model has been taken up in several counties in Romania, as well as in nine other countries: Italy, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria, Moldova, Turkey, Russia, Brazil and India. The campaign aims to change the lives of abandoned animals and also to change perceptions. Animals belong in families, not on the streets and not in shelters.
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- **We made a simple and easy-to-access adoption platform: <https://ilfovadopta.ro>. We promote adoption on TV, but also on buses, at events, in bookshops or flower shops**



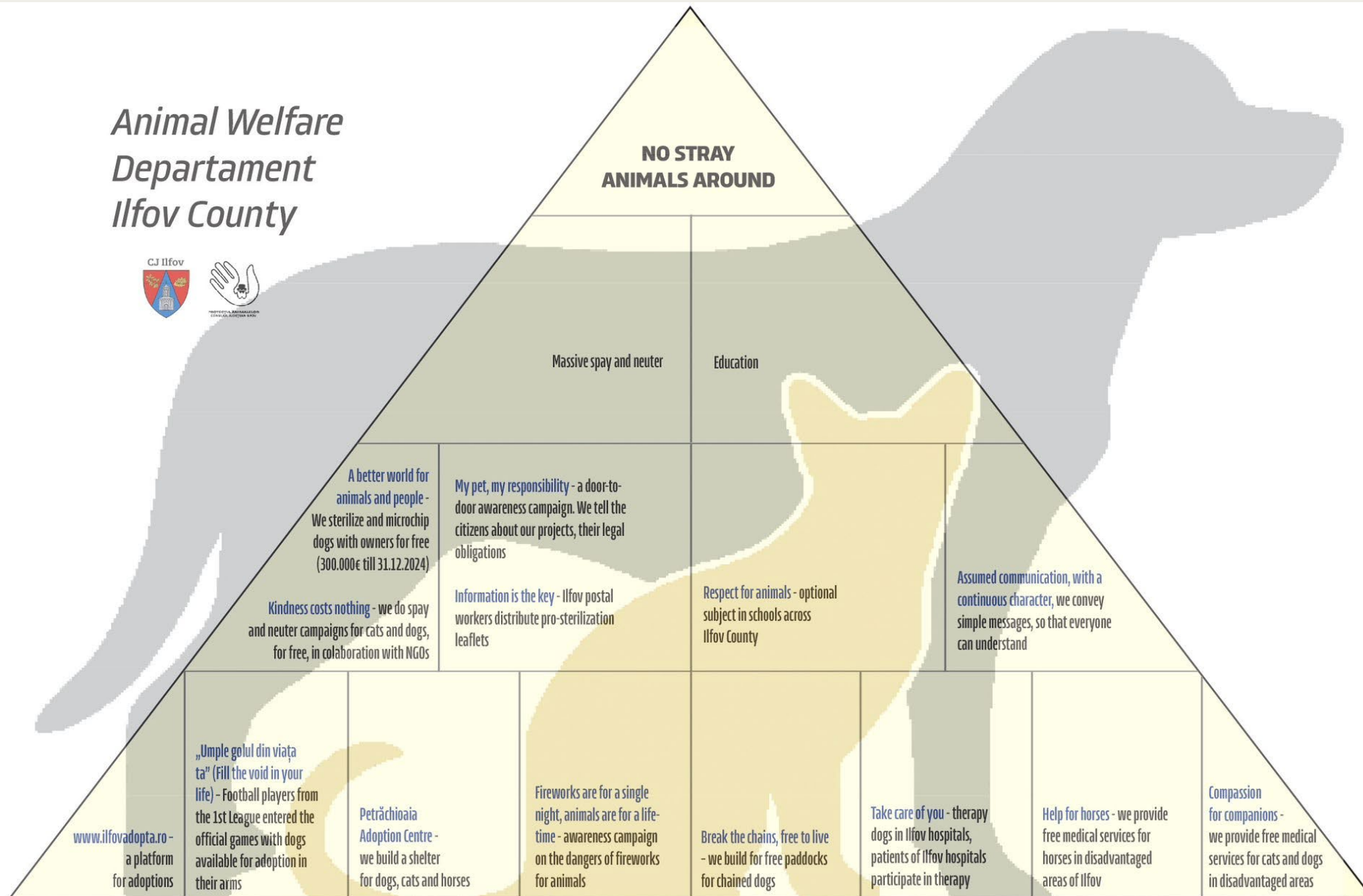
V. Conclusions and future needs

IV. PREVENTION

- **We protect all forms of life - for cases involving wild animals we have a partnership with the Wild Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Center "*Luana's Dream*". The center has veterinarians who specialize in the management and treatment of wild animals.**
- **Preventing animal abandonment - We set up surveillance cameras in areas where dogs and cats were frequently dumped. Abandonment is punishable by law with a fine of up to 12,000 lei.**
- **Fighting animal abuse - We work with the Romanian Police in cases of animal abuse. When the police receive a report of a abused, neglected or abandoned animal, the police go out on the field to check. If the animal is really in danger, they ask us for help. Over the years, we have taken in various animals: dogs, cats, horses, donkeys and even a common raccoon dog.**



Animal Welfare Departament Ilfov County





Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.int
www.woah.org

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