



Sixth regional workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkans countries (DPMB6) 5-7 November 2024 - Montenegro

Dog population management in Tunisia

Pr. Ouajdi SOUILEM
Dr. Asma LOUATI

Introduction

- The proliferation of stray dogs represents a serious health and socioeconomic problem in Tunisia
- Since 2011, the situation worsened due to a total disorganization of the different sectors
- This issue pushes the authorities to practice dog slaughter as part of the rabies control program mainly but also to limit other public health problems (zoonosis, cases of dog bites...)
- · This practice seems not to give results compared to what is expected
- Slaughtered dogs are left in pain and agony

PLAN

I- Overview of stray dogs situation in Tunisia

II- Civil society perception about stray dogs

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I- Overview of stray dogs situation in Tunisia

Stray dogs are defined by the **Ministries of Agriculture, Interior and Public Health decree** in April 13, **1985** regarding the specific health measures should be taken for the fight against rabies:

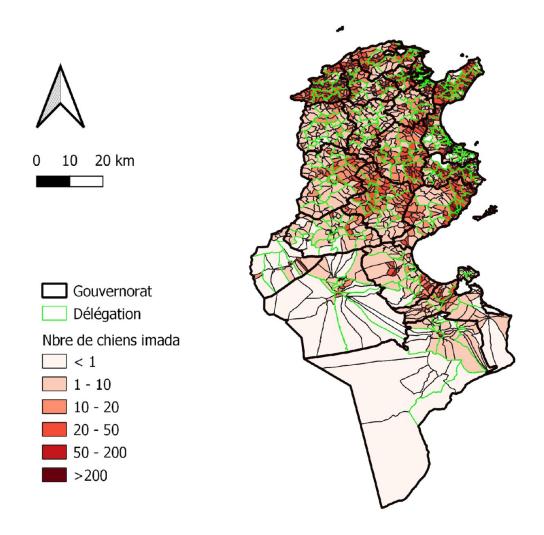
- Article 2: In municipal areas, any dog outside the enclosure of a private dwelling must be kept on a leash. If not, it's considered a stray dog
- Article 3: In rural areas, any dog on public roads must be kept on a leash.
 Otherwise, it will be down. This measure does not apply to hunting dogs in hunting activity and to shepherd dogs accompanying the herds.

- The last study related to biology and ecology dog populations in Tunisia was carried out by Hans MATTER in 1987;
- Density of dogs:
 - In rural areas: more than 80% of households have at least one dog.
 - In urban and semi-urban areas: 20% of households have a dog

- Dog renewal rate: After two years, > half
 (50%) of the population is renewed
- Home range in semi-urban area for stray dogs: 0.06 Km² and 8.53 Km²
- Parenteral vaccination accessibility for dogs:
 - 66% in rural areas,
 - 71% in semi-urban areas
 - 67% in urban areas



Geographical distribution of stray dog in Tunisia



Dr Haj Ammar H., 2021

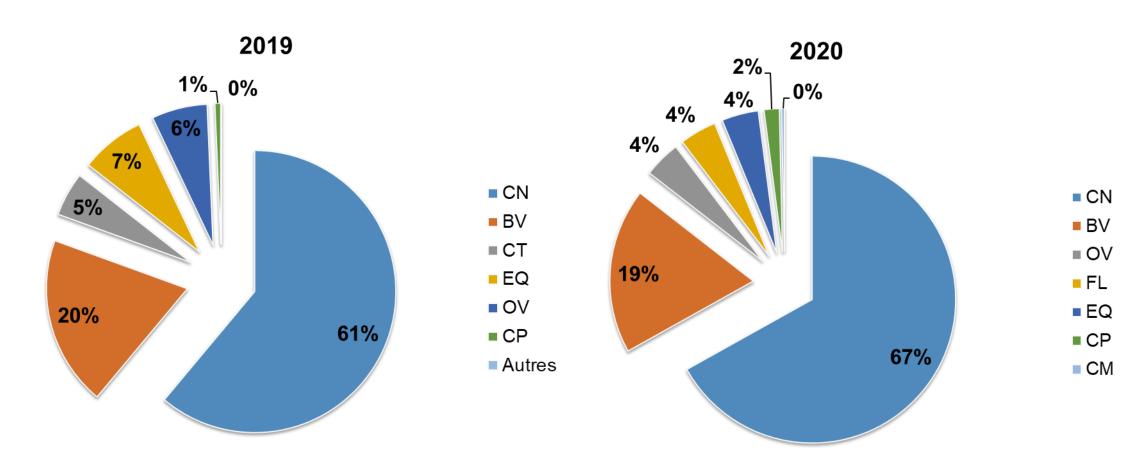
What causes the increase of stray dog population?

- Stopping the killing of stray dogs under pressure from associations and civil society
- The abandonment of dogs by their owners or the placing on the street of young people from a new litter whose owner is incapable of taking care of them
- The accumulation and poor management of garbage and full bins not emptied by municipal services, which represents an excellent larder for stray animals
- Some citizens, who believe they are doing the right thing, give street animals food and water and thus encourage their multiplication.

Impact of stray dogs in Tunisia



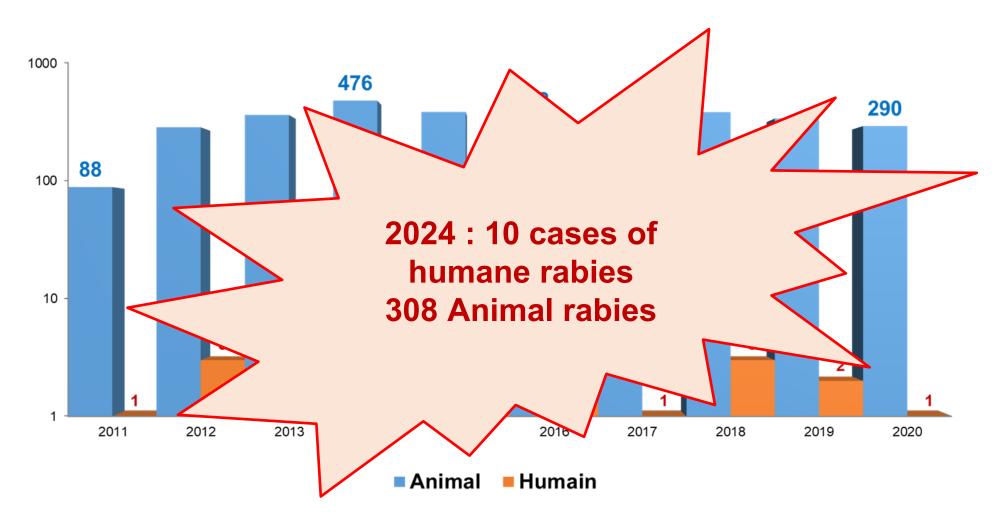
Distribution of animal cases by species



Dr. Emna Brour, DGSV

10

Evolution of Rabies cases



National program for rabies control (1982)



- Prevention of disease in animals, both reservoir and vector, by organizing annual mass vaccination campaigns for dogs
- Control of the dog population mainly by organizing campaigns to cull stray dogs
- The care of people exposed to the risk of rabies contamination following different types of contact with suspect animals, by providing citizens with numerous regional anti-rabies treatment centers allowing the administration of the most appropriate treatment.

Increases of animal rabies cases

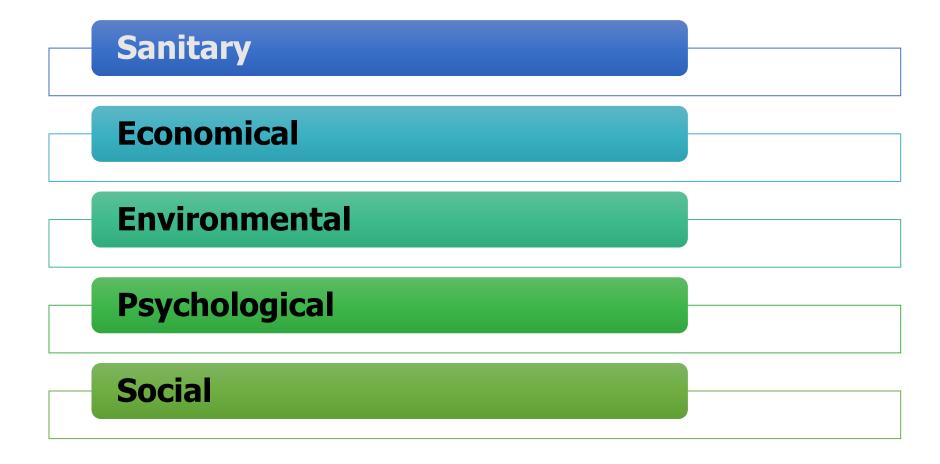
Weakening of multisectoral coordination + drop in vaccination rate

Increases of human rabies cases

Decrease of cases

Strengthening of tools of control+multi-sectorial coordination

Impact of stray dogs in Tunisia



From 2011: A disorganization of all sectors and aggravation of the situation



PLAN

I- Overview of stray dogs situation in Tunisia

II- Initiative in Tunisia in DPM

Citizen and NGO's activities

National strategy for dog population management

Citizen and NGO's activities

Mobilization of civil society against cruelty to animals Tunis May 2016



Activists of animal rights associations and volunteers organized a protests in downtown Tunis on Sunday May 29, 2016 against the slaughter of stray dogs.

Mobilization of civil society against cruelty to animals

Creation of events and groups on social networks to activate the law against cruelty and animal abuse



idlلب_بتفعيل قانون،حماية الحيوانات#.Droits des animaux Tunisie

Petition to stop the dog slauthering

PÉTITION

STOP À L'ABATTAGE DES CHIENS ERRANTS EN TUNISIE!

uivre cet auteur



Auteur(s): Association Amdam

Destinataire(s): Gouvernement tunisien

25.753 signatures

Saisissez votre email

Pourquoi signez-vous ? (facultatif)

- Oui, je veux suivre cette pétition et d'autres combats.
- O Non, cela ne m'intéresse pas.

VOIR TOUTES LES SIGNATURES

La pétition

En Tunisie, chaque soir des centaines de chiens sont traqués et fusillés dans l'impunité la plus totale au détriment de tous les principes humains, éthiques, moraux et de santé publique.

Les scènes de carnage gagnent en atrocité de jour en jour : des chiennes allaitant leurs petits, des chiens en détresse et malades, des chiens qui ne représentent ABSOLUMENT AUCUN DANGER. Ces chiens sont, le plus souvent, laissés agonisant dans une souffrance insoutenable pendant des heures voire des jours.

Au nom d'une menace qui n'existe pas et d'un texte réglementaire datant du 19ème siècle !

Pourtant, la quasi-totalité de la société tunisienne est indignée par cette pratique mais beaucoup se sentent impuissants et peu passent à l'action.

Aujourd'hui la solution existe. Et les moyens matériels, humains et financiers utilisés pour ce carnage quotidien peuvent servir à mettre en place une campagne de stérilisation, qui, avec l'aide des associations, des vétérinaires, des bénévoles éradiquera ce qu'ils considèrent comme un problème en quelques années.

Certaines municipalités tunisiennes l'ont déjà fait. Alors pourquoi pas toutes les autres ?

Association « Pas si Bêtes », Marsa

- Goals: save animals in distress by calling on veterinarians and many volunteers
- These volunteers are asked to provide food and appropriate care

defend street and mistreated animals

- Local: at La Marsa.
- Exists since 2013



https://www.infotunisie.com/lassociation-pas-si-bete/

PAT, Hammamet



- Non-profit association
- Aimed at helping animals in distress
- Rescuing injured animals in order to find families for them



Association CCTNA

- Association CCTNA (Chiens et Chats de Tunisie, de Normandie et d'Ailleurs)
- Manager: Leila El Fourgi
- Headquarters in Hammamet
- Shelter for stray and mistreated dogs

https://www.secondechance.org/refuge/eure/chiens-et-chats-de-tunisie-de-normandie-et-d-ailleurs-cctna-1616



SOS Animaux Tunisie, Nabeul



SOS Animaux is an animal protection association Founded in October 2007 at the initiative of Dr Raoudha Mansour, Nabeul

- المنظمة الوطنية للدفاع عن الحيوان-

Onda : Organisation nationale de défense de l'animal

Establish laws to eradicate any act of cruelty to animals and to punish anyone who violates these laws



ASPAT, Nabeul

 Tunisian Animal Rescue and Protection Association (Aspat)



 Creation of a refuge for stray, mistreated or abandoned animals in SABELET BEN AMAR



Tunisie: Un refuge animalier ouvrira bientôt à Sabalet Ben Ammar

| Imprimer |







L'Association de sauvetage et de protection des animaux de Tunisie (Aspat) va créer un refuge pour animaux errants, maltraités ou abandonnés. Le terrain est prêt, reste à trouver des financement pour démarrer la construction.

Shelter dog at Béni khiar Ben Jannet Kaouther



جمعية الرحمة للرفق بالحيوان Arrahma Association for Animal Welfare (sousse)





Cause animale: L'abattage des chiens est-il justifié ?!

Par Meriem KHDIMALLAH

Publié sur 29/07/2024

Société civile et phénomène des chiens errants : Stériliser, au lieu d'abattre !

Par Karim Ben Said Publié sur 17/07/2024





Leaders

INTANO - DO'NO'SOSA

Tunisie: La rage, une situation inquiétante et des lacunes dans la stratégie de lutte



National strategy for dog population management

Initiatives for stray dog population management

- Creation of sterilization and vaccination centers for stray dogs
- Mobilization of civil society actors, non-governmental organization, animal welfare associations
- Community and personal initiatives
- Veterinary services contribution
- Partnership public private sector (municipality and private veterinarian)

Center activities

- ➤ Capture of dogs
- ➤ Selection or sorting of animals
- > Euthanasia of suffering animals
- > Sterilization
- ➤ Vaccination against rabies
- ➤ Identification by ear loops
- ➤ Anti parasitic treatment
- > Release of dogs in their natural environment

Pilot project of the Municipality of Tunis: Center for sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs at Belvédère, 2017



Municipality of la Marsa





volontaires coordinateurs ont été chargés de faire un suivi des chiens capturés et de sensibiliser la

population à l'avantage de cette action pour l'intérêt général.

Municipality of Hammam-lif









Société Tunisienne de Bien-Etre Animal (STBEA)

- Filed in January 2019
- Local: ENMV
- Objectives:
 - Taking care of animals (compagnon animals, Farm animals, Working animals, Laboratory animals, wild)
 - Contribute on scientific and technical support in the field of animal welfare
 - Sensitization of the importance of the animal's place in society and the need to protect it and provide welfare conditions for animals
 - Proposing legal arrangements and texts that would contribute to animal protection and care, in coordination with the concerned authorities and relevant associations

Increase of the number of rabies cases in

2024

2024 : 10 cases of humane rabies 308 Animal rabies



- A ministerial council decides to activate the crisis unit
- bring forward the launch date of the national rabies vaccination campaign
- · Involve private sector veterinarians and doctors in vaccination campaigns
- Intensify interventions to better care for the environment and eliminate illegal dumping of household waste
- Free numbers will be made available to citizens to inform them, guide them and raise awareness

Intensifing vaccination compaign

Raise awareness of young generation about rabies and animal welfare







Need for a concerted approach

Collaboration NGOs and Municipalities



L'Association de protection des animaux de Tunisie (PAT), en collaboration avec la municipalité de Tunis et des bénévoles, a organisé hier, dimanche 3 novembre 2019, à El-Menzah 9, à Tunis, une journée en faveur des chiens errants, capturés, vaccinés et stérilisés.

Cette action s'inscrit dans un programme visant à venir en aide aux chiens errants pour leur éviter l'abattage, indique la PAT, en remerciant tous ceux qui y ont participé, notamment le chef de délégation d'El-Menzah, Anis Oueslati, les agents de la municipalité de Tunis et les activistes qui ont apporté leur aide.

«Six chiens ont été capturés pour être emmenés au centre de stérilisation du Belvédère afin d'y être vaccinés, stérilisés et bagués. Ils retourneront sur leur lieu de capture afin de garder leur territoire et d'éviter à d'autres chiens d'y pénétrer» précise l'association, en ajoutant qu'une liste de volontaires habitant à proximité des lieux de capture a été établie. Ces derniers sont chargés de faire un suivi de ces chiens et de sensibiliser les habitants à l'avantage de cette action pour l'intérêt général.

Cause animale : Des chiens errants capturés, vaccinés et stérilisés à El-Menzah 9 (Photos)



Need for a concerted approach

- Importance of better organization of the work of associations
- Sensitization of volunteers and people involved in the animal cause towards health and public health issues (rabies problem !!!!)
- Better concretization of associations actions through collaboration with the various actors: veterinary inspectors, private veterinarians, municipalities, etc.)

WOAH Twining Project on Animal Welfare in Tunisia and North Africa



Started in January 2021, will finish in June 2024





The three-year twinning project intends to focus on the Section 7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and - in particular - on the slaughter of animals, killing of animals for disease control purposes, animal transport by land, and stray dog population control.



Training course on dog population management (Part I: Italy) (Teramo-September 2023)

- Dog population in the WOAH Europe Region

Chapter 7.7 is specifically dedicated to dog population management

Defines Dog Population Management (DPM) as the holistic approach that aims to improve the welfare of dogs, reduce problems they may present and create harmonious coexistence with people and their environment.

Training course on dog population management (Part I: Italy) (Teramo-September 2023)

- The Italian legislation for dog population management: The framework law for the prevention of stray dog (general review/ regional laws)
- → The Italian legislation on dog population management is among the most advanced in Europe and in the world, it is based on a "no-kill" approach and it is applied since 1991.

Training course on dog population management (Part I: Italy) (Teramo-September 2023)



Training course on dog population management (II part): the new WOAH standard and the current situation in Tunisia (9-13 October 2023)





Submit an application for a collaborating center in Animal Welfare (transport and Dog population management)





Project of Unit of Management of Roaming Dog at ENMV







Emergency response program

- We should use a system of services designed to suit local dog population dynamics to improve responsible dog ownership and humanely minimize the population of unwanted and unmanaged dogs.
- The political will and funding for DPM should be accessed in addition to funding earmarked for mass vaccination
- Obligation to identify owned and stray dogs using earmark or microchips
- Investment on long term Kennels and raise awareness among civil society of the importance of adoption
- Sustainability of actions

CONCLUSION

- Stray dogs constitute a crucial problem in Tunisia
- Lack of legislation and management of stray dog population
- Absence of a clear strategy by the government for dog population management
- The mass vaccination of dogs is not accessible to all dogs

CONCLUSION

- Increased citizen interest in the animal welfare of stray dogs in urban zone
- Cohabitation between human and roaming dog
- High risk of zoonotic diseases RABIES !!!



