Country report on national action plans for animal welfare

AZERBAIJAN

CHICHAK ALIYEVA

WOAH workshop on developing national action plans for animal welfare

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World Organisation for Animal Health

What are the main Animal Welfare issues you work on?

1.**Stray Animal Population:** There is a large population of stray dogs and cats, which often suffer from poor living conditions, lack of food, and limited access to veterinary care.

2.**Animal Cruelty and Abuse:** Cases of intentional cruelty, including neglect and abuse, are a concern. There are reports of animals being mistreated in various settings, including farms and urban areas.

3.**Lack of Animal Welfare Legislation:** Although there have been efforts to improve animal protection laws, there is still a lack of comprehensive legislation that ensures the proper treatment of animals. This includes weak enforcement of existing regulations.

Resources – what resources (financial and human) are available to work on Animal Welfare?

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Animal welfare NGOs in Azerbaijan often rely on donations and fundraising efforts
- **Volunteers:** Many animal welfare efforts in Azerbaijan rely on volunteers to help with tasks such as rescuing animals, fostering, fundraising, and community education. Volunteer numbers fluctuate, but they are a crucial part of sustaining animal welfare programs.
- **Shelters:** Some shelters exist for stray animals, but many of them are underfunded and overwhelmed by the number of animals they need to care for. Efforts to improve shelter conditions and expand capacity are ongoing.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Animal welfare groups often organize public awareness campaigns, leveraging media (TV, social media, print) to educate the public about the importance of animal care, responsible pet ownership, and animal rights.

While there are some resources available for animal welfare work in Azerbaijan, there is still a significant gap in funding, human resources, and infrastructure. Strengthening these resources, both locally and internationally, will be key to making progress in improving animal welfare in the country.

Stakeholders – Which are involved (government agencies, NGOs, farmers, veterinary professionals) and their role?

- **1. Government Agencies:**
- **Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR):**
- **Ministry of Agriculture:**
- **Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency:**
- **2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):**
- **Animal Protection Organizations:**
- **3. Farmers and Agricultural Sector:**
- **Livestock Farmers:**
- **Poultry and Dairy Farmers:**
- **4. Veterinary Professionals:**
- **Veterinarians:**

- **Roles of Stakeholders:**
- **Government agencies** regulate, enforce laws, and allocate resources for animal welfare. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation of wild animals in Azerbaijan.
- **NGOs and activists** drive public awareness, provide direct care, and advocate for legislative change.
- **Farmers** manage the welfare of farm animals and can adopt better practices with the right education and support.
- **Veterinary professionals** provide medical care, education, and advocacy for humane treatment.
- **Public and volunteers** contribute to animal welfare through actions such as adoption, volunteering, and spreading awareness.
- Collaboration between all these stakeholders is key to advancing animal welfare in Azerbaijan.

Regulatory framework – What are the legal acts/regulations that you have on Animal Welfare? Do you use WOAH standards and other guidelines and best practices in your work?

- 1.Law on Environmental Protection (1999)

- 2. Law on Veterinary Medicine (1997)

- 3. Law No. 675-IQ on wildlife (fauna) protection (1999)

- 4. European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals
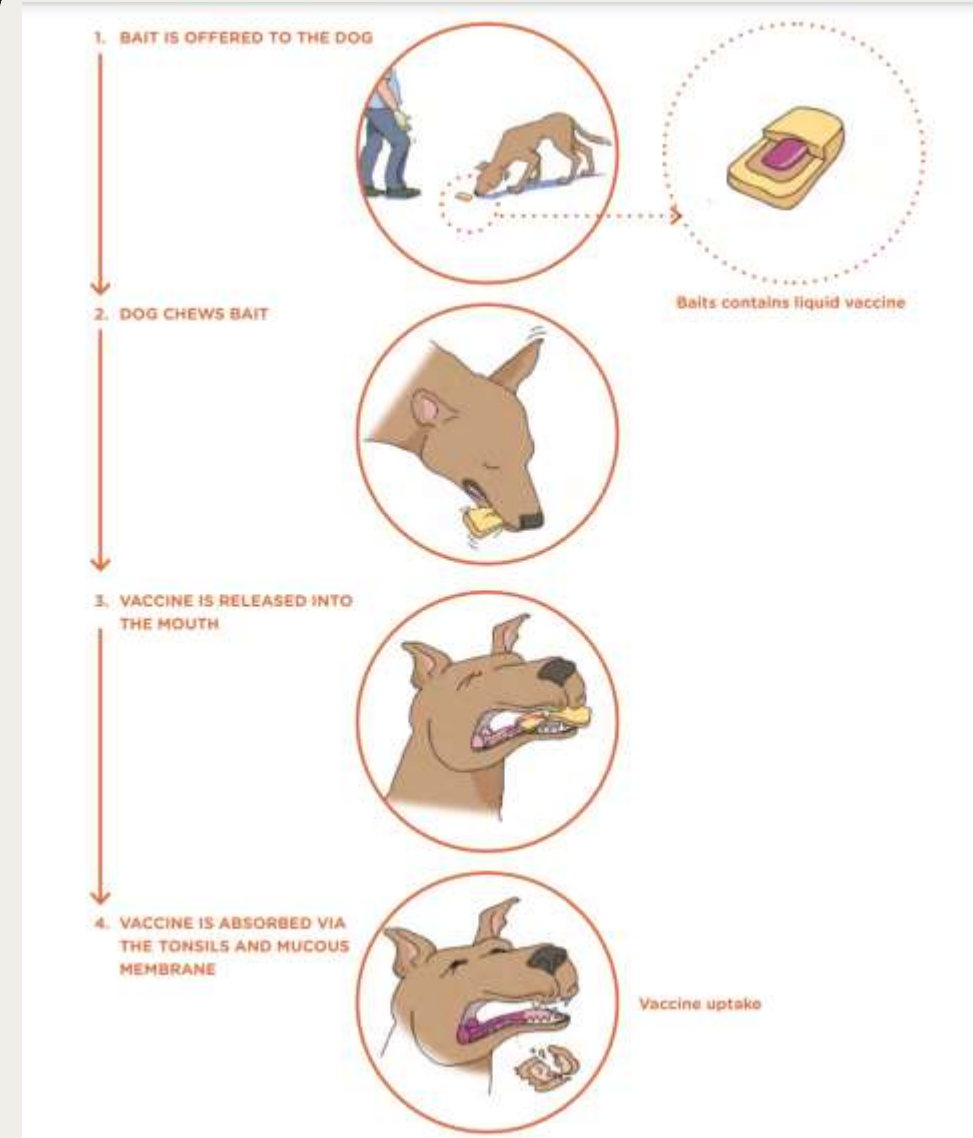
- 5. Penal Code of Azerbaijan (1999)

Implementation and enforcement – what are the main actions taken to implement and enforce your regulatory framework?

1. Stray Animal Management Programs - Sterilization and Vaccination Campaigns:

2. Veterinary Services and Inspections - Regulation of Veterinary Practices:

3. Public Awareness and Education Campaigns / Media Campaigns:

4. Legislative Advocacy and Reform Efforts Drafting and Advocating for Animal Protection Laws

5. Animal Welfare Inspections and Reporting Systems Animal Cruelty Reporting:

6. Collaboration with International Organizations International Partnerships:

Data – what data you collect and how?

1. *VACCINATION DATA*

2. *VETERINARY CLINICS ACTIVITY RECORDS*

1. BAIT IS OFFERED TO THE DOG

Baits contains liquid vaccine

2. DOG CHEWS BAIT

3. VACCINE IS RELEASED INTO THE MOUTH

4. VACCINE IS ABSORBED VIA THE TONSILS AND MUCOUS MEMBRANE

Vaccine uptake

Public awareness or educational programs – What programs are currently in place in your country?

Barriers and challenges – What barriers and challenges do you face to implement Animal Welfare regulation (cultural, economical, political, …) ?

1. *Lack of Comprehensive Legislation*

2. *Weak Enforcement of Existing Laws*

3. *Public Awareness and Education*

4. *Cultural Attitudes Toward Animals Cultural Practices:*

5. *Stray Animal Overpopulation*

6. *Lack of Financial and Human Resources*

Thank you

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