

Country report on national action plans for animal welfare

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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What are the main Animal Welfare issues you work on?

Stray dogs.

Due to a lack of education and low public awareness, the concept of welfare is almost always associated with stray dogs in the public perception.

As a result, this topic has become the biggest issue in the context of public popularization.



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

Human resources are insufficient, the number of inspectors is inadequate, and the lack of education in the field of welfare leads to the absence of systematic supervision and inadequate monitoring of all aspects of welfare.



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

The Veterinary Service and NGO Dogs Trust, UNDP, which mainly finance the implementation of the Law in the field of stray dogs, through continuous education, media campaigns about responsible ownership, and campaigns for mass sterilization/castration of owned and stray dogs.



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?

The Animal Protection and Welfare Act and 12 regulations on welfare during slaughter, transport, keeping, conducting experiments, protection and welfare of animals in zoos (adopted from the EU), regulations on dangerous dogs, keeping pets, and animal identification etc. as national regulations.



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

Regarding stray dogs:

- Established National data base for dog & cats
- Established veterinary network, clinics and professionals that can support population control campaigns
- Collaboration with local municipalities, local animal welfare organisations and other partners (UNDP; Dogs Trust)
- Established more shelters in country
- Established commercial movement – animal adoption to EU countries through TRACES NT system
- A noticeable decrease in the stray dogs population in the last 5 years



Data – what data you collect and how?

Regarding stray dogs:

- Number of owned dogs
- Number of vaccinated dogs and the dynamics of rabies vaccination
- Number of sterilized/castrated dogs
- Data on dangerous dogs
- Number of dogs placed in shelters
- Number of dogs adopted in the EU



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

- Responsible ownership promotion program – mandatory animal identification
- Veterinarian training program
- Education program for children in primary schools
- Promotion of fostering



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

- Cultural barriers: In some communities, traditionally the awareness of the need to ensure animal welfare is low, and there are deeply rooted prejudices that can make it difficult to accept new standards.
- Economic barriers: Implementation of regulations can be expensive. The costs of training, infrastructure, and equipment can be significant.
- Political barriers: Political will and support are crucial for the implementation of regulations. Lack of political support can slow down or hinder the implementation of regulations.
- Lack of resources: Insufficient financial and human resources can hinder the implementation of regulations. This includes a lack of trained personnel and inspectors.
- Lack of awareness and education: Insufficient awareness about the importance of animal welfare among key stakeholders can lead to poor compliance with regulations. Education and awareness campaigns can help address this issue.
- Systemic barriers: Establishing an effective system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of regulations can be challenging due to a lack of data and adequate data management mechanisms.

Thank you



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