



Theory of change

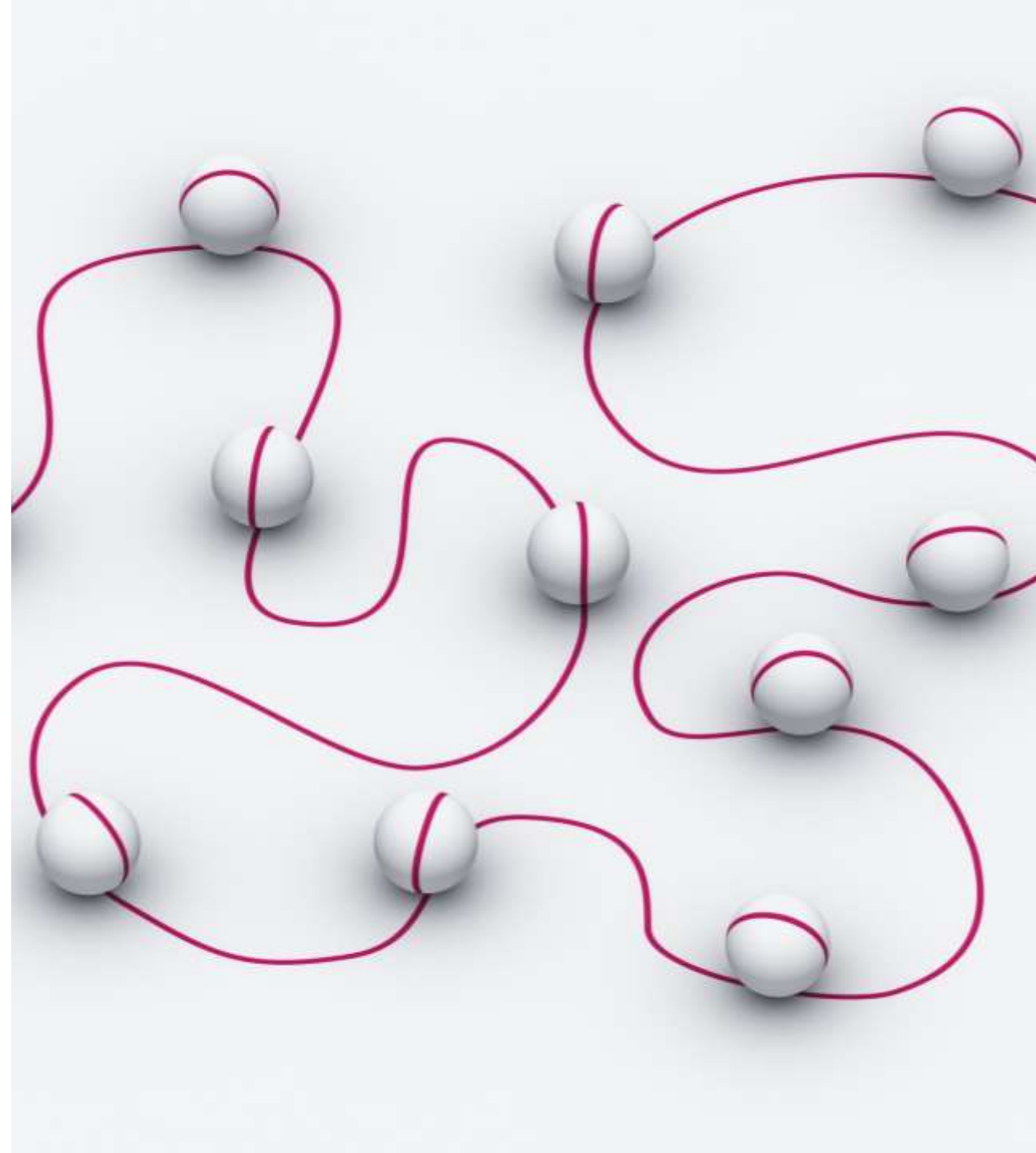
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Theory of what?

- Theory of Change is a rigorous participatory process whereby groups and project stakeholders identify the conditions they believe have to unfold for their long-term goals to be met.
- These conditions are modelled as outcomes, arranged graphically in a causal framework.
- The methodology used to create a Theory of Change is also usually referred to as Theory of Change, or the Theory of Change approach.
- So, when you hear or say “Theory of Change”, you may mean either the process or the product.





It is distinct from any other method of describing initiatives in a few ways:

- ✓ it shows a causal pathway from here to there by specifying what is needed for goals to be achieved.
- ✓ it requires you to articulate underlying assumptions which can be tested and measured.
- ✓ it changes the way of thinking about initiatives from what you are doing to what you want to achieve and starts there.



Benefits of ToC

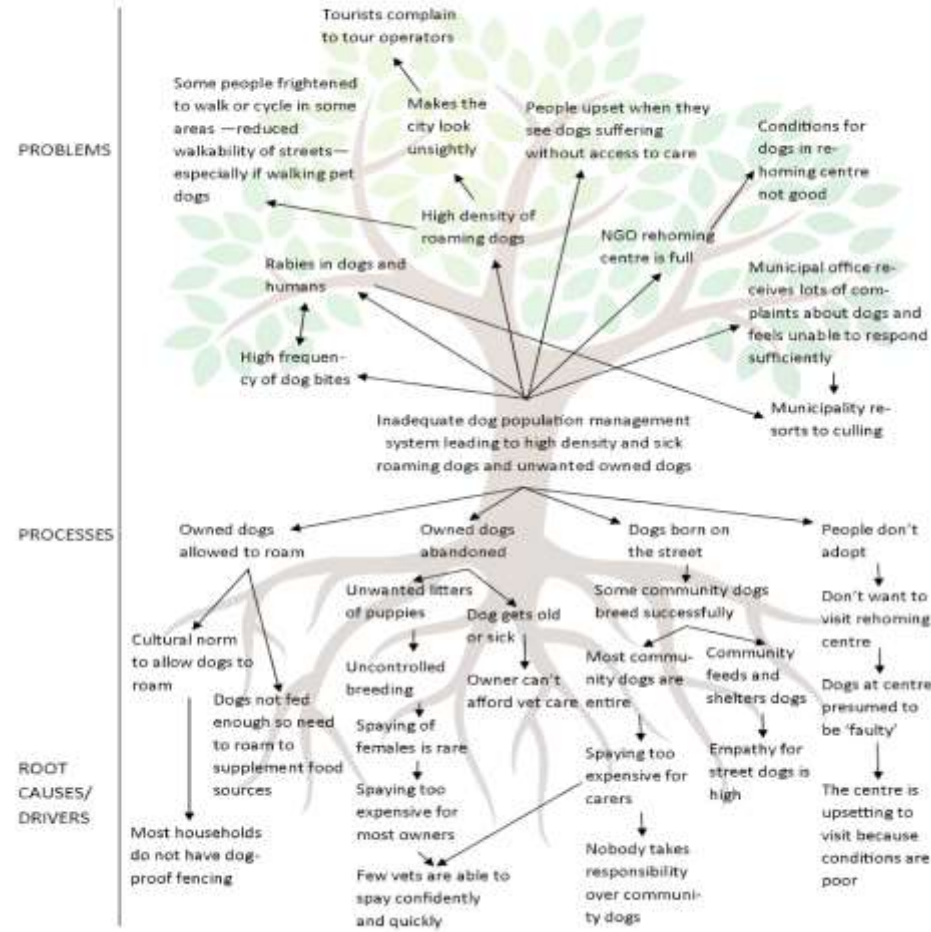


- **When you have a complete Theory of Change, you will have:**
 - A clear and testable hypothesis about how change will occur that not only allows you to be accountable for results, but also makes your results more credible because they were predicted to occur in a certain way;
 - A visual representation of the change you want to see in your community and how you expect it to come about;
 - A blueprint for evaluation with measurable indicators of success identified;
 - An agreement among stakeholders about what defines success and what it takes to get there;
 - A powerful communication tool to capture the complexity of your initiative.
- **You can use your theory:**
 - As a framework to check milestones and stay on course;
 - To document lessons learned about what really happens;
 - To keep the process of implementation and evaluation transparent, so everyone knows what is happening and why;
 - As a basis for reports to funders, policymakers, boards...

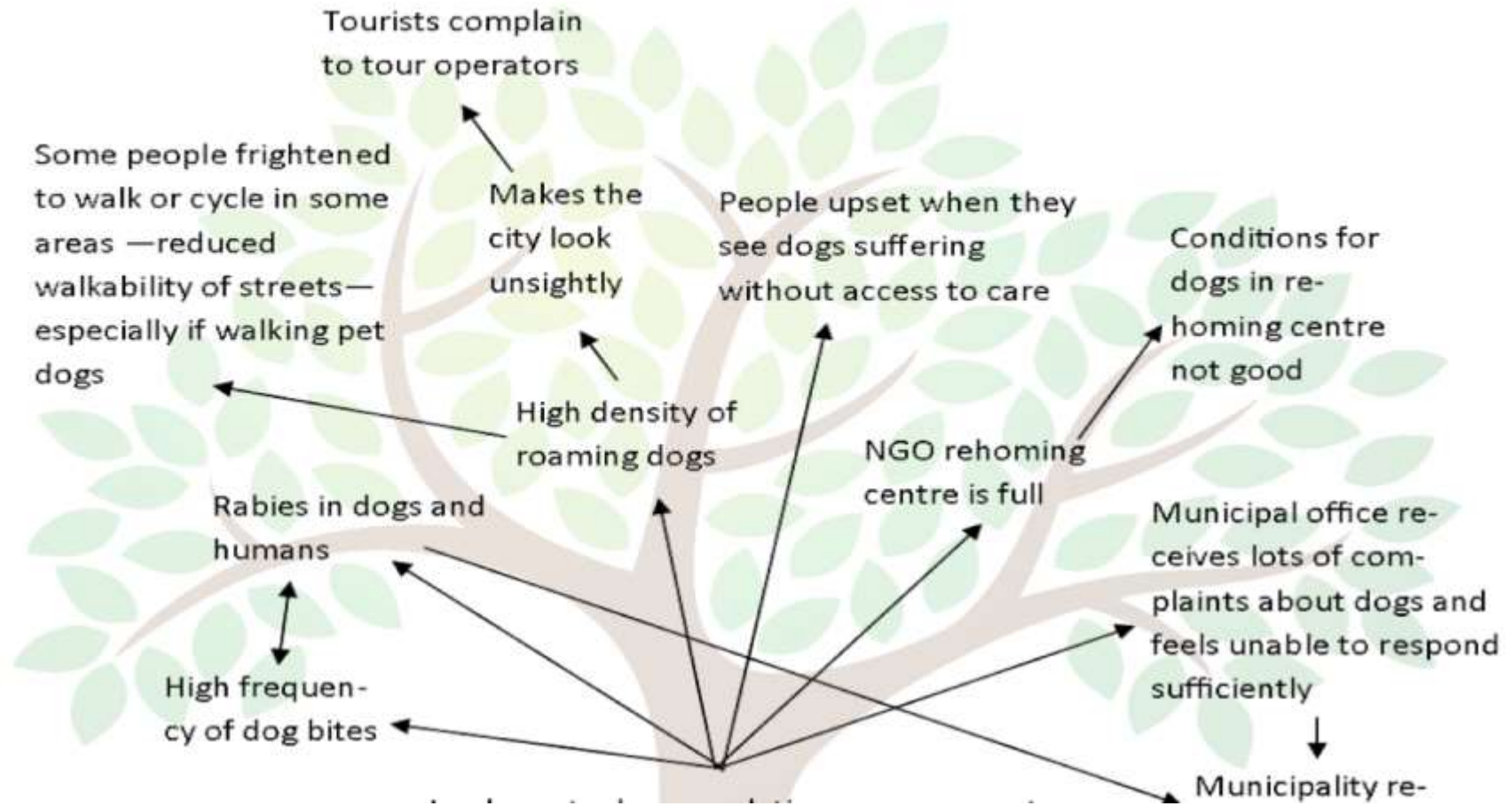


ToC maps out your initiative through 6 stages:

1. Identifying long-term goals
2. Backwards mapping and connecting the preconditions or requirements necessary to achieve that goal and explaining why these preconditions are necessary and sufficient.
3. Identifying your basic assumptions about the context.
4. Identifying the interventions that your initiative will perform to create your desired change.
5. Developing indicators to measure your outcomes to assess the performance of your initiative.
6. Writing a narrative to explain the logic of your initiative.



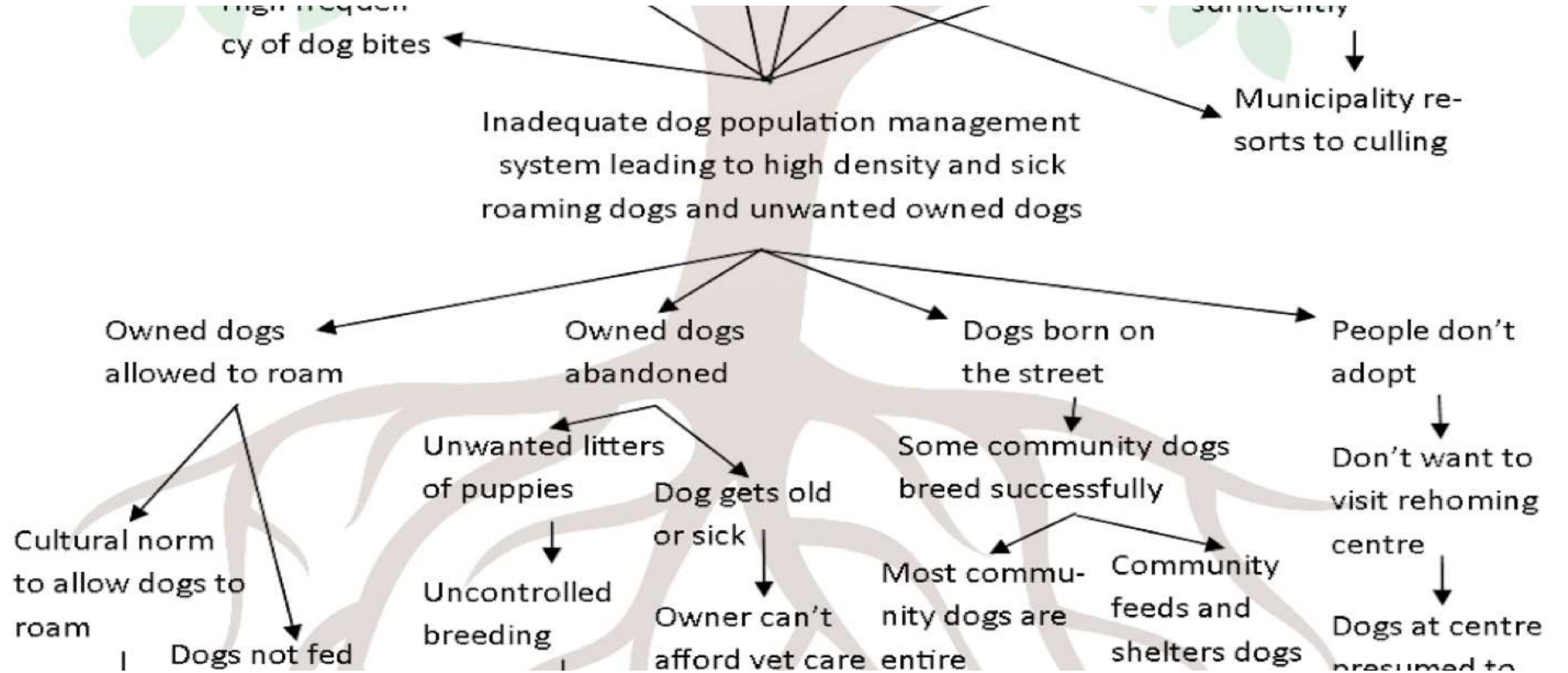
PROBLEMS

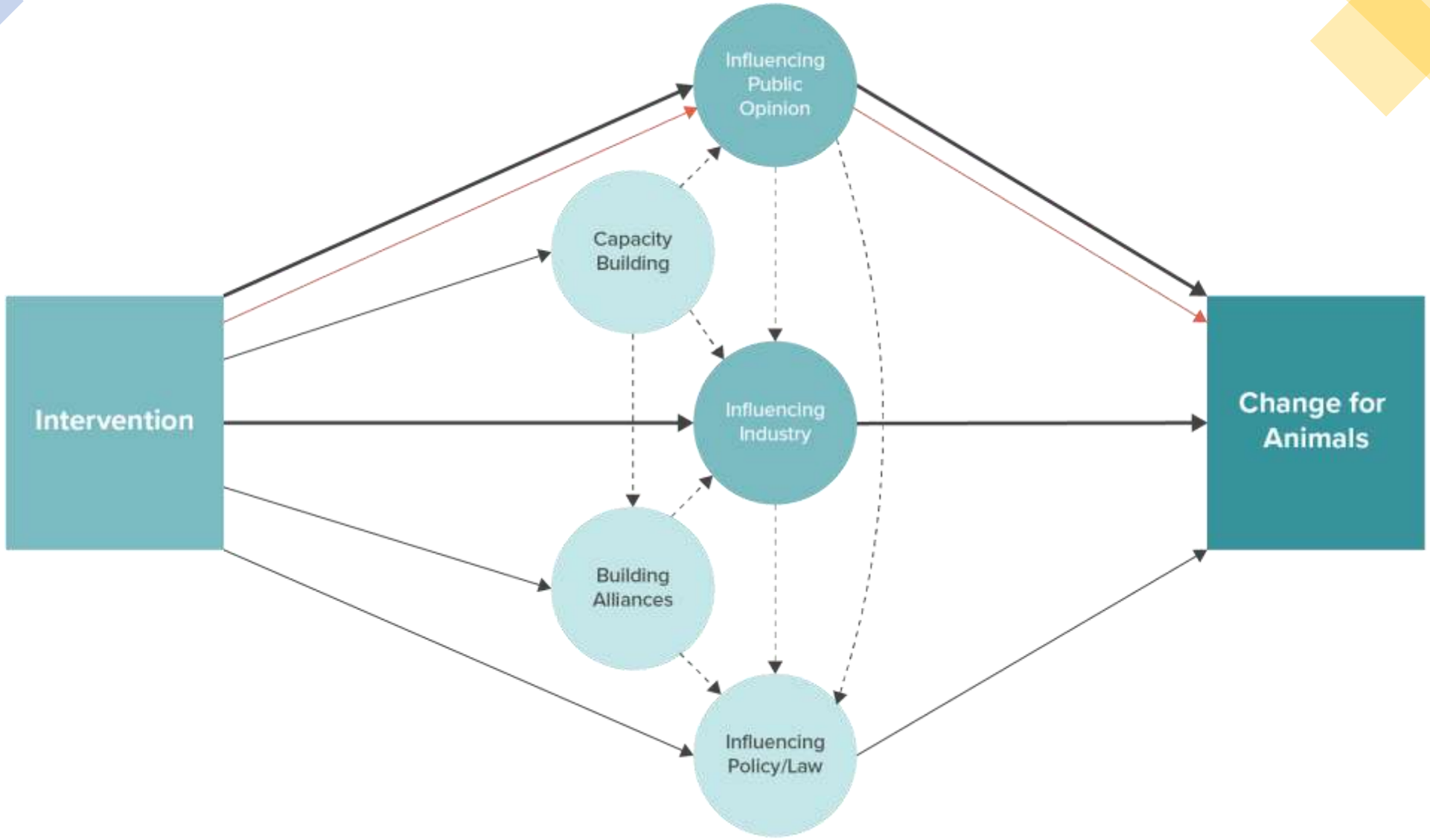


ROOT
CAUSES/
DRIVERS

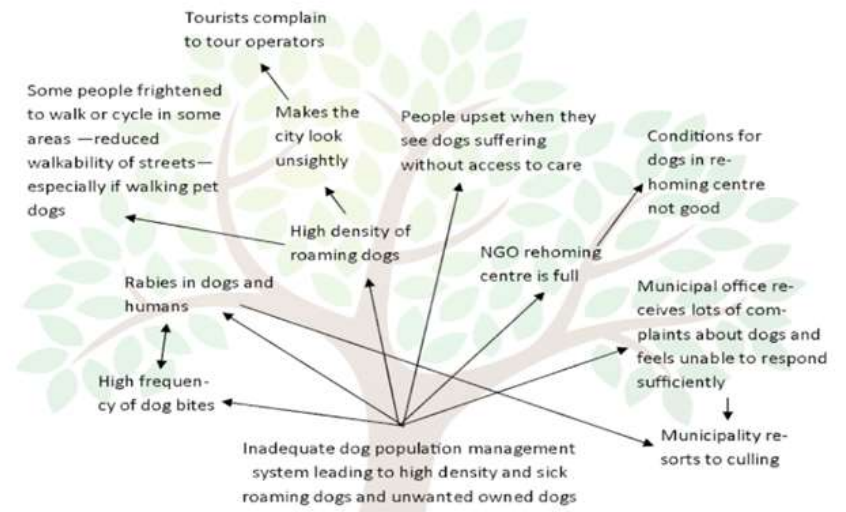


PROCESSES





PROBLEMS



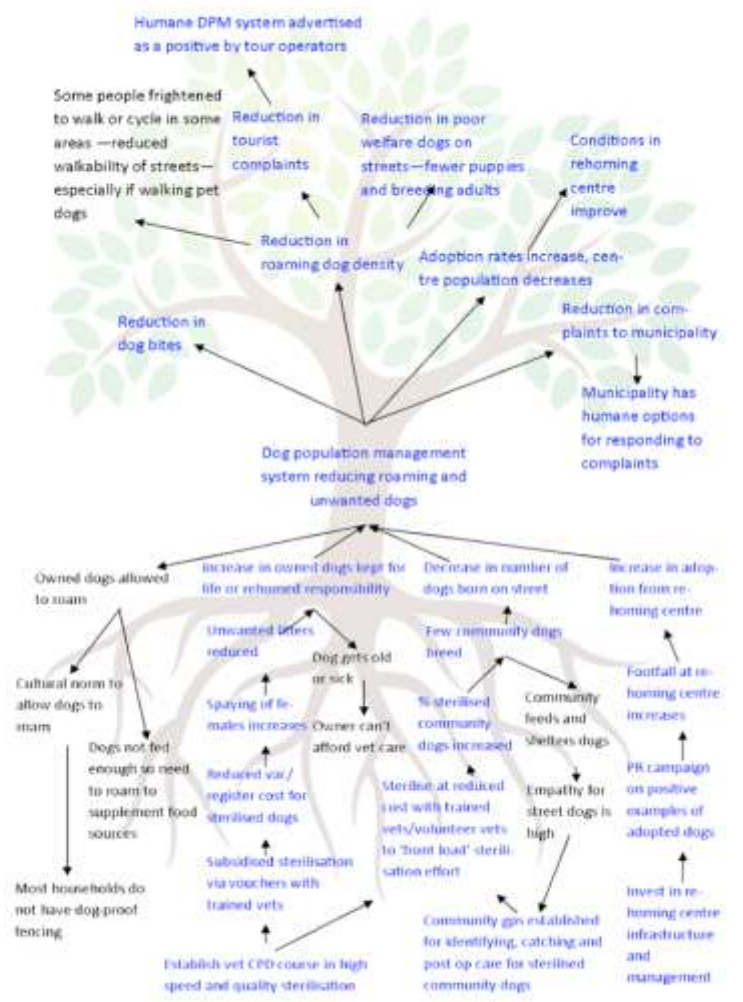
PROCESSES

ROOT CAUSES/ DRIVERS

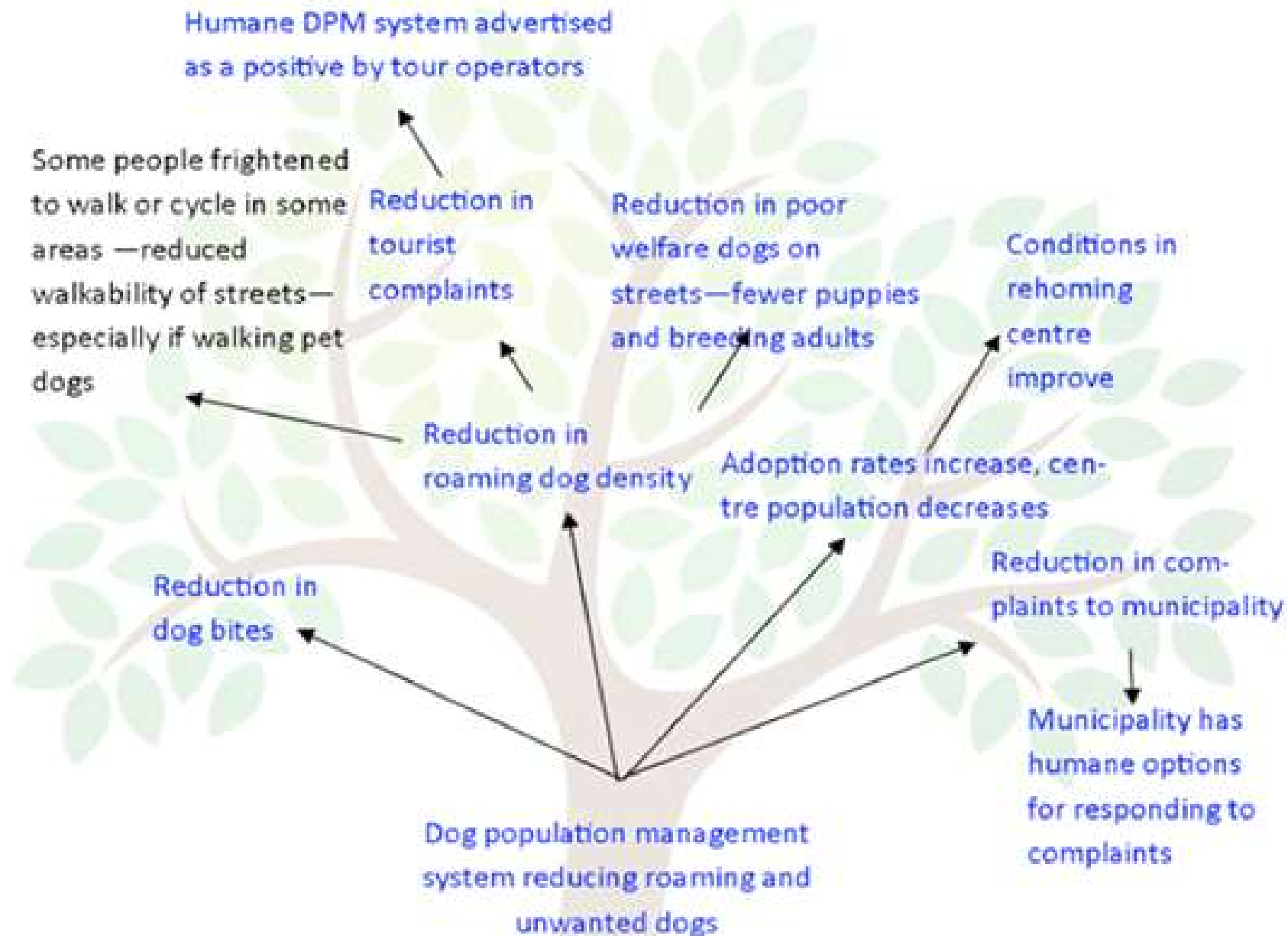
IMPACTS

PROCESSES

DPM ACTIVITIES



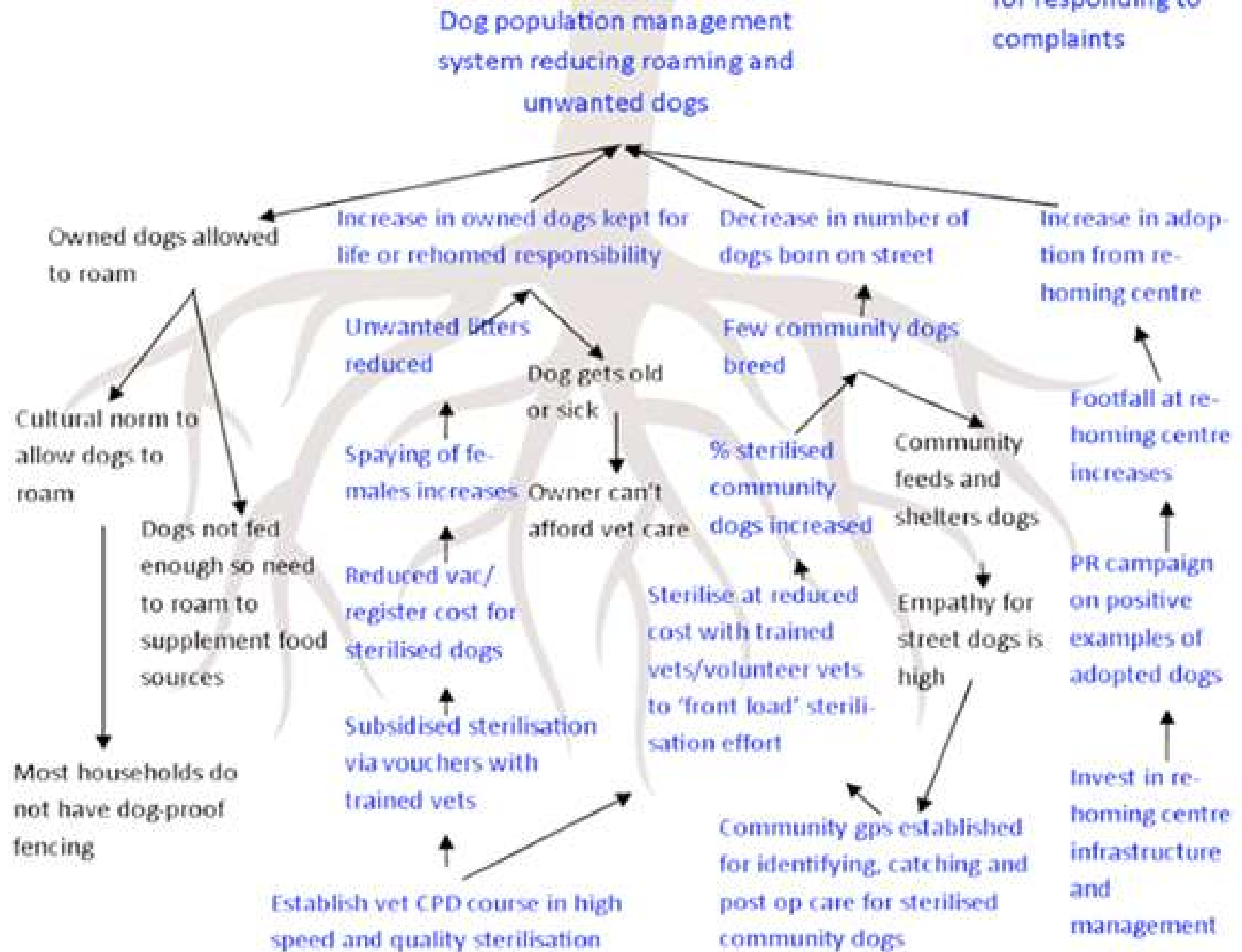
IMPACTS



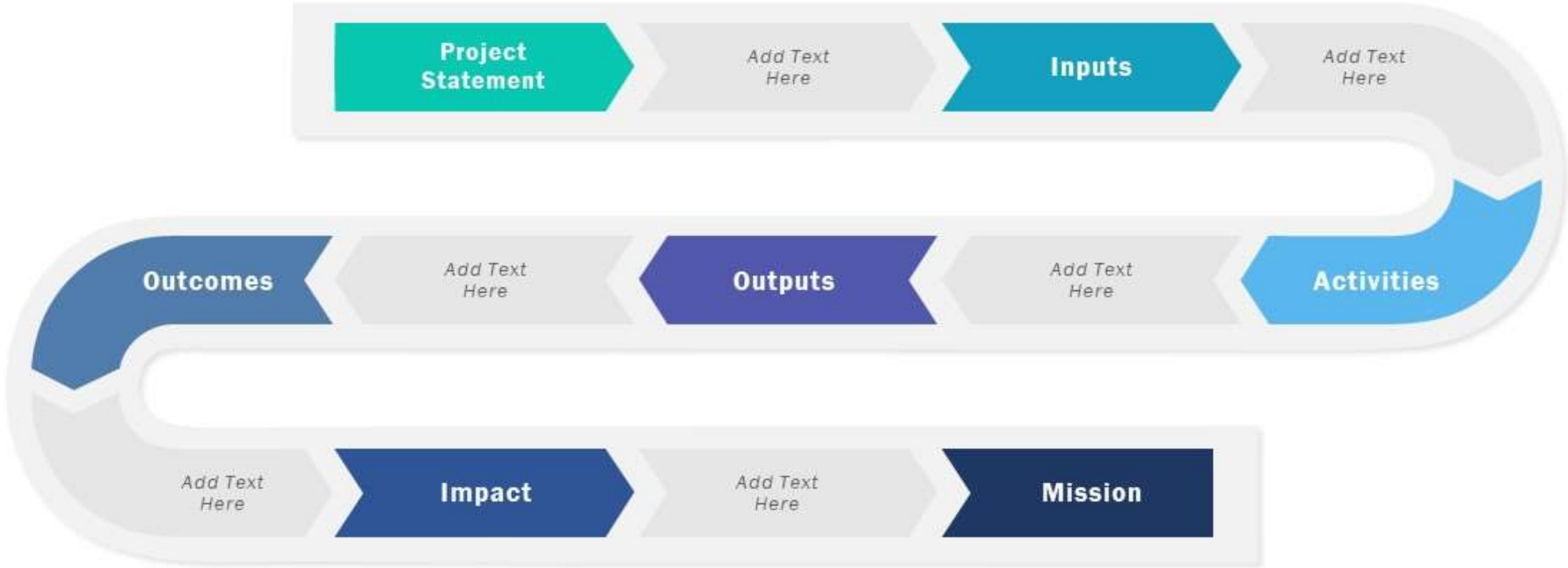
PROCESSES

DPM

ACTIVITIES



Theory Of Change Template



Situation	What is the context or reason for this change?	Aims	What will 'success' look like?
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Inputs and activities	Outputs	Change mechanism	Outcomes	Impacts
Inputs What financial outlay, staffing and other resources will be required?	What tangible results, products, lessons, inspections or improvements will be produced?	What actions will be needed to achieve the change(s)? Are you removing frictions, changing behaviour etc.?	Short term What will be the benefits and wider outcomes, both leading and lagging?	What are the impacts and how do they fit with departmental and governmental priorities?
Activities What will be delivered, such as training or guidance?			Long term What will be the sustainable and lasting changes, and what metrics will be used to measure these?	

Evidence assessment	What is the strength of the existing evidence base for this change?
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Assumptions	What is being assumed as part of the plan?	Possible unintended consequences	Are there any other outcomes that might result from this project?
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The end

