

# Introduction to Dog Population Management programmes

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## Guiding principles of CHAPTER 7.7 (Art 7.7.4)

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Dogs are dependent on human communities, thus *there is an ethical responsibility* to ensure their health and welfare even in the absence of ownership.

*Dog ecology is linked with human activities*, DPM should be accompanied by changes in human behaviour,

The *owned dog population* is a common source of free-roaming dogs, DPM programmes should *consider all dogs*.

Sources and drivers of free-roaming dogs and management goals differ across communities, DPM programmes should be *individually tailored to local and national contexts*.

*Local dog population dynamics + community attitudes and behaviours are* key element in determining whether and how DPM programmes might contribute to rabies control and which tools would be most successful.

DPM programmes should be designed to be *sustainable, aligned with legislative requirements, evaluated and adaptable*.



**Dog Population Management programme** means a combination of measures that enhance the care of dogs and influence dog population dynamics to sustainably improve dog health and welfare, public health and safety, and the environment, while taking into consideration related economic benefits and costs

***Veterinary Services*** should play an active role and coordinate their activities with relevant ***Competent Authorities***,

and **may be responsible for the organisation, implementation and supervision of DPM programmes.**

# The revised TAHC Chapter 7.7 on dog population management

Article 7.7.1. Introduction

Article 7.7.2. Definitions

Article 7.7.3. Scope

Article 7.7.4. Guiding principles

Article 7.7.5. Dog Population Management objectives

Article 7.7.6. Roles and responsibilities

Article 7.7.7. Competent Authority for Dog Population Management (DPM)

Article 7.7.8. Other organizations and actors involved in DPM

Article 7.7.9. Regulatory framework

Article 7.7.10. Evidence-based programme development

Article 7.7.11. DPM programme assessment and planning

Article 7.7.12. Monitoring and evaluation

Article 7.7.13. Recommendations for DPM measures

Article 7.7.14. Registration and identification of dogs

Article 7.7.15. Regulation of commercial dog breeding and sale

Article 7.7.16. Control of national and international (export or import) dog movements

Article 7.7.17. Promoting responsible dog ownership

Article 7.7.18. Reproductive control

Article 7.7.19. Catch, neuter, vaccination and return

Article 7.7.20. Reuniting and adoption

Article 7.7.21. Access to veterinary care

Article 7.7.22. Environmental controls

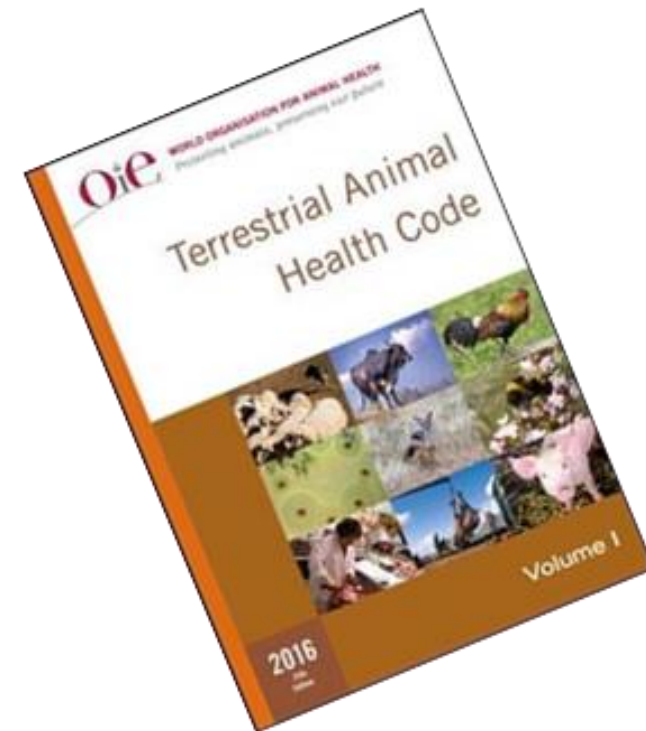
Article 7.7.23. Educating in safe dog-human interaction

Article 7.7.24. Specific considerations for DPM

Article 7.7.25. Capture and handling

Article 7.7.26. Housing

Article 7.7.27. Euthanasia



## DPM programmes objectives (Art 7.7.5)

May include the following objectives:

- promote and establish **responsible dog ownership**;
- **improve health and welfare** of dog populations;
- reduce the number of **free-roaming dogs**;
- **stabilise the dog population** by reducing turnover;
- reduce **risks to public health and safety** including dog bites, traffic accidents, and zoonotic diseases such as rabies, leishmaniosis and echinococcosis;
- contribute towards **eradicating dog-mediated human rabies**;
- **reduce nuisance** caused by *free-roaming dogs*;
- **prevent harm to livestock** and other animals;
- **prevent illegal trade** and trafficking of dogs.

## Article 7.7.10. Evidence-based DPM programme development

**Recognising the different needs of communities and the multi-sectorial roles in DPM**, *Competent Authorities* - which can be the Veterinary Authorities - should support evidence-based DPM programmes based on a stepwise approach of **continued monitoring and evaluation, by using objective methods**.

DPM programmes to be conducted in collaboration with the advisory groups and other relevant authorities by;

- ensuring the budget of DPM programmes including **the costs for the initial assessment + monitoring and evaluation activities**;
- **encouraging the use of standardised indicators** with feasible and repeatable methods of measurement that can be used across locations and over time
- **identifying qualified personnel** and developing training tools to help with implementing data collection (assessment and *monitoring*) and use (planning and evaluation)



The initial DPM programme development stages of assessment and planning should provide the evidence required for planning and include:

- ✓ **Review of the current regulatory framework** and evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of DPM control measures
- ✓ **Identification of the priority issues** from the perspective of all relevant stakeholders.
- ✓ **Exploration of dog population dynamics** in the whole dog population (not limited to the current free-roaming dog population) to identify the sources of free-roaming dogs.
- ✓ **Identification of people's knowledge, attitudes and practices** regarding dog care and responsibility for owned dogs and unowned dogs.
- ✓ **Estimation of dog population size and demography**. Accuracy of estimates is typically improved with more time-consuming methods and greater local engagement (with available methods for dog population size estimates)



# Article 7.7.12. DPM programme monitoring and evaluation

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DPM programme **monitoring and evaluation indicators/measurables**:

- **Owned dog population** size, demographics and whether they are receiving there is responsible dog ownership (can include their vaccination status, sterilisation, registration, identification, level and method of confinement and how they were acquired).
- **Free-roaming dog population density**, demography (age, sex, sterilisation, lactating females and puppies) and welfare (e.g. body condition score and, presence of a skin problem) recorded by direct observation of free roaming dogs on surveys along standardised routes.
- **Prevalence of zoonotic diseases** in both the animal and human populations (I.e., rabies and or echinococcosis Echinococcus Chapter 8.14. and Chapter 8.5).
- **Knowledge, attitudes and practices of communities** relating to the free-roaming dog population, and dog owner knowledge, attitudes and practices of regarding **responsible dog ownership**.
- **Dog population movements** from owned to unowned dogs or from confined to free-roaming dogs (based on investigations and monitoring).
- **Reuniting facility performance** including intake, adoption rates, welfare state of dogs in their care, mortality and euthanasia rates.
- **Dog bites** reported to health centres or number of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis courses provided to the exposed individuals, or the cost incurred by the public health authorities for provision of post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Number and nature of **complaints about dogs** to local government authorities.
- **Compensation costs** relating to dog-related damages to people, livestock, or property



## Article 7.7.13. Recommendations for DPM measures

A combination of the following measures should be used for a successful DPM programme:

- **registration and identification** of dogs (Art. 7.7.14)
- regulation of **commercial dog breeding and sale**(Art. 7.7.15)
- control of national and international (export and import) dog movements(Art. 7.7.16)
- promoting **responsible dog ownership**(Art. 7.7.17)
- **reproductive** control(Art. 7.7.18)
- **'Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return'**(Art. 7.7.19)
- **reuniting and adoption**(Art. 7.7.20)
- access to **veterinary care**(Art. 7.7.21)
- **environmental** controls(Art. 7.7.22)
- **education** on safe dog-human interaction(Art. 7.7.23)

**These recommendations for DPM measures should be implemented in accordance with the national context and local circumstances.**



## Specific considerations for DPM activities (Art 7.7.24)

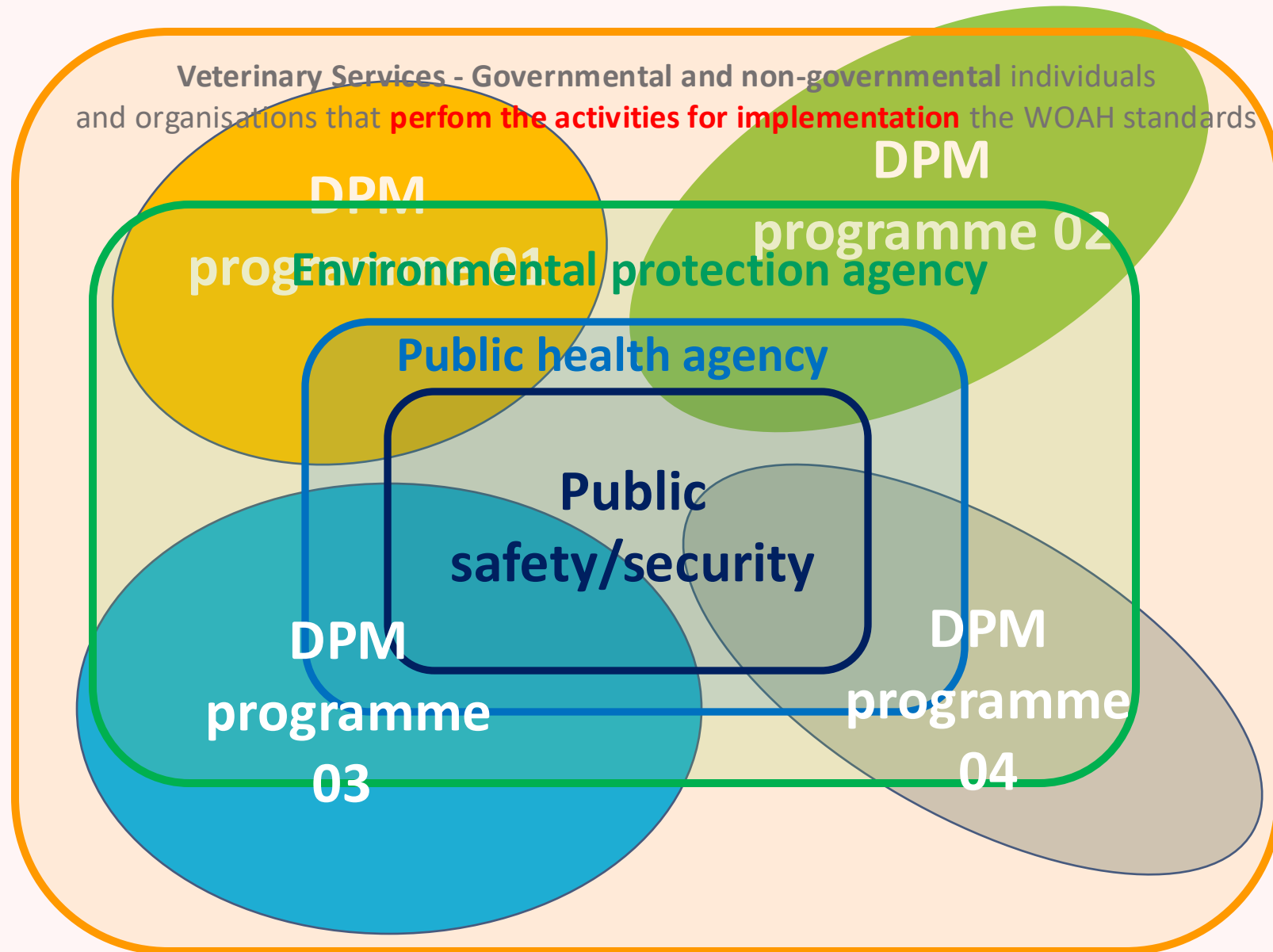
**May be required** for the implementation of the DPM measures:

1. Dog capture and handling (Art 7.7.25)
2. Dog housing (Art 7.7.26)
3. Euthanasia - To be conducted under the supervision of a *veterinarian* (Art 7.7.27)

***“the act of inducing death using a method that causes a rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress to animal”*** (WOAH TAHC Glossary)

## Veterinary Authority - Governmental Authority implementation/coordination of the WOAAH standards

Veterinary Services - Governmental and non-governmental individuals and organisations that **perform the activities for implementation** the WOAAH standards



# CHALLENGES

- **Complexity of Animal Welfare** with important scientific, ethical, cultural, religious, economic and political dimensions
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- **Dog population pose different** animal welfare, public health and safety **issues**
  - **WOAH standards are not legislation**, they need to be adapted for local condition
  - Need to address DPM from a **One-Health perspective**





# Thank you

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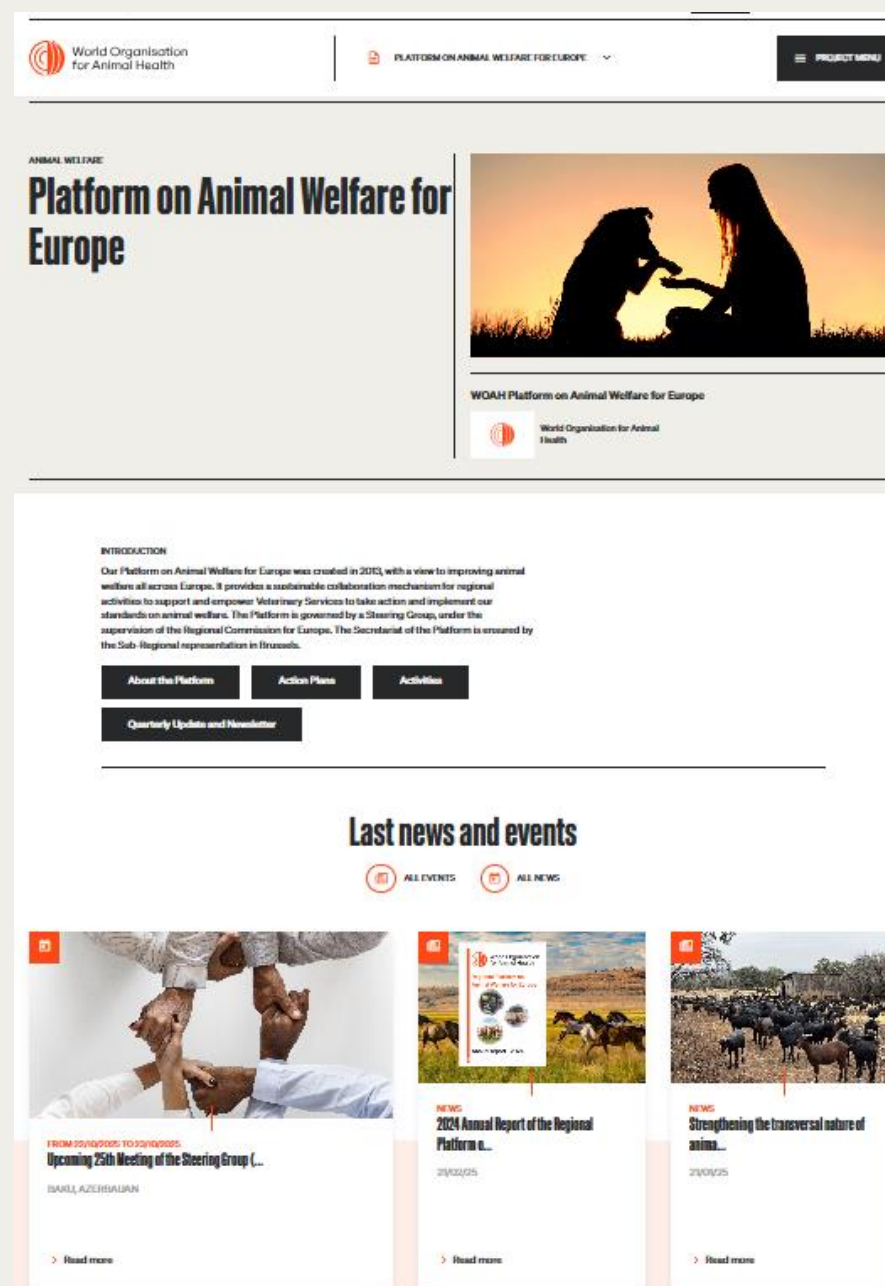
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<https://rr-europe.woah.org/en/Projects/animal-welfare-platform-europe/>