

5th WOAH regional workshop on Dog Population Management for Caucus and Central Asia

Country Report on national situation Georgia

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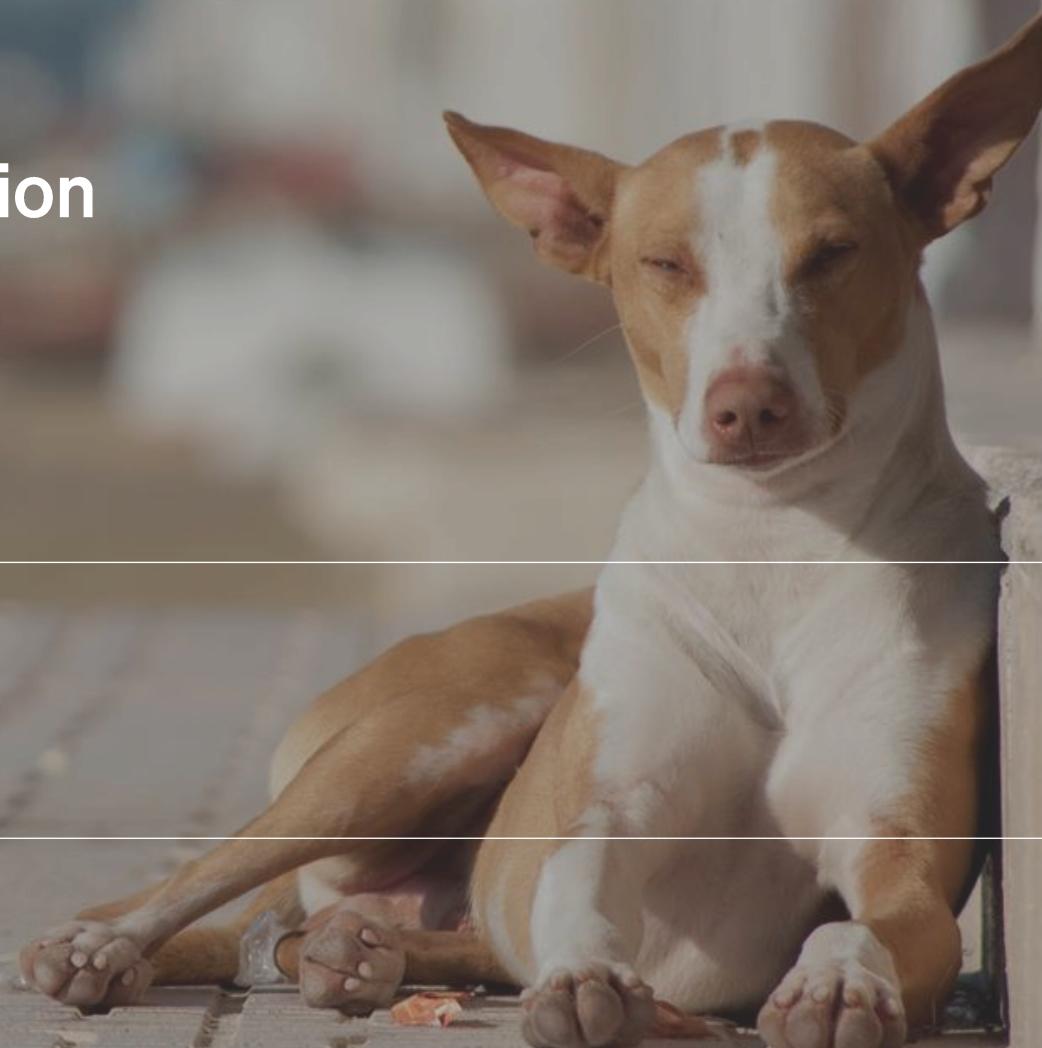
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I. Country Situation Overview

Estimation of the dog population

- Owned dogs/cats 300,000 – 350,000
- Free-roaming dogs – probably 150.000 – 200.000

Competent Authority

- Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia
- National Food Agency
- Municipalities

Key reasons for the high free-roaming population:

- Low historic sterilisation rates
- Abandonment and uncontrolled breeding
- Movement of dogs from rural to urban areas;
- Low number of shelters in Georgia;

I. Country Situation Overview

Legal Framework (2024–2025)

- Draft Law on Domestic Animals — under review, not yet adopted
- Government Decree N1019 (2025) – DPM pilot programme
- Order N150-9 – Establishment of National DPM Management Group

I. Country Situation Overview

Government Decree N1019 (2025) – DPM pilot programme

Main Goals:

- Reduce free-roaming dogs/cats
- Support rabies prevention
- Improve animal welfare and community safety
- Create unified national procedures for DPM

Coordination:

- Implemented by National Food Agency

Key Actions:

- CNVR (Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Return)
- Identification & registration in NAITS
- Rabies vaccination
- Data reporting and monitoring
- Cooperation between municipalities, shelters and NFA

I. Country Situation Overview

Government Decree N1019 (2025) – DPM pilot programme

- The pilot is implemented in 3 regions of Georgia
- Includes cooperation with 2 municipal shelters
- During the pilot, shelters and municipal teams:

Caught - 7000

Sterilised - 7000

Vaccinated (rabies) - 7000

All treated animals were registered in NAITS and returned or placed for adoption according to the programme rules.

II. Dog Population Control Measures in Georgia

Identification & Registration (NAITS system)

- Mandatory microchipping for all owned dogs & cats
- Registration of owners & caretakers
- Municipalities and shelters act as registering bodies
- Identification required before sale, adoption or movement

Control of Movement

- National & international movement regulated under NFA
- Pre-movement vaccination & health certification

II. Dog Population Control Measures in Georgia

Reproductive Control

- Large-scale Catch–Neuter–Vaccinate–Return (CNVR) for unowned dogs
- Registration of licensed breeders and their obligations

Access to Veterinary Care

- Mandatory rabies vaccination
- Required deworming & preventive care

Public Awareness and Education

- Raising awareness among the population through various events

Shelters in Georgia;

7 Shelters:

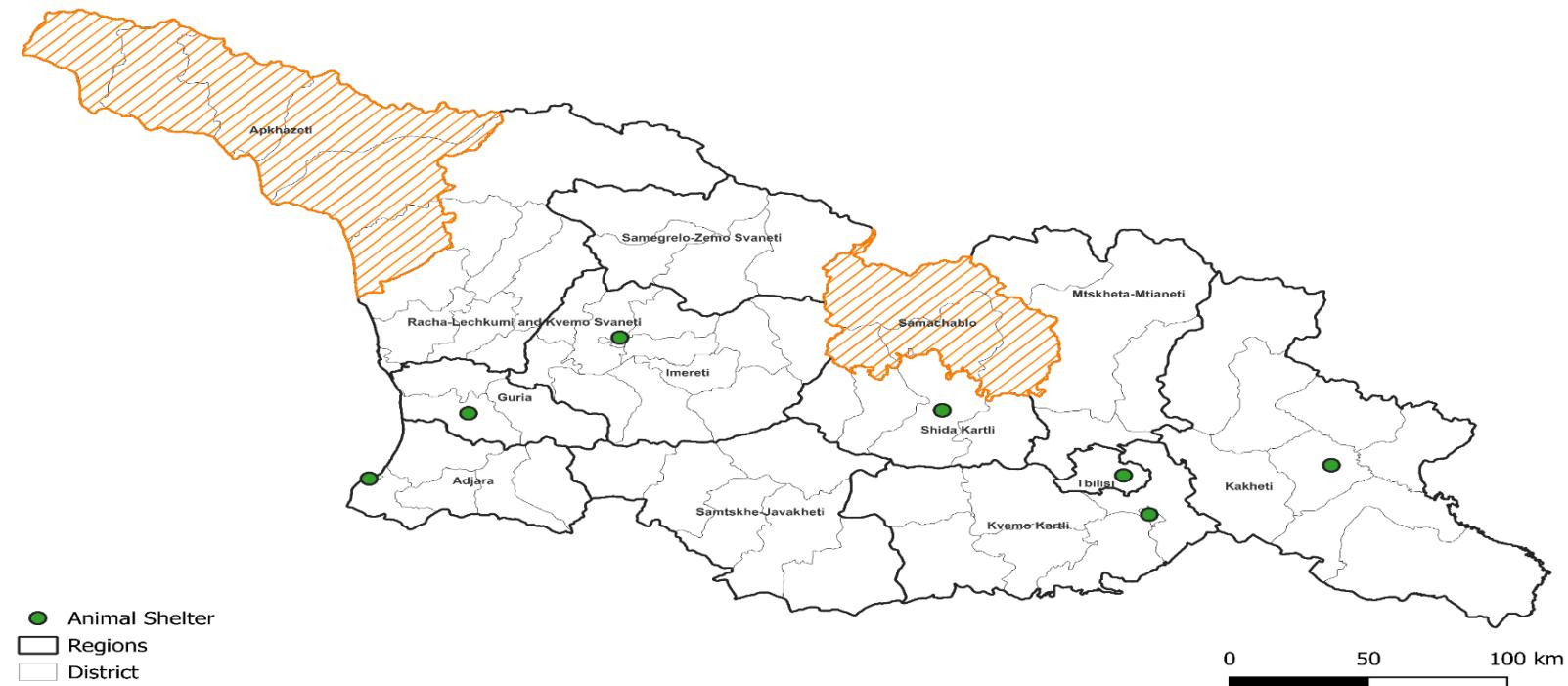
5 - Municipalities

2 - Private



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Animal Shelters



II. Dog Population Control Measures in Georgia

Control of Shelters

State control in shelters is carried out by the National Food Agency, which includes:

- Scheduled and unscheduled inspections;
- Verification of document;
- Requirements for arranging animal shelters;
- Requirements for veterinary drugs, including controlled drugs;

III. Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Municipalities collect and report data (registrations, CNVR, calls, sick animals, euthanasia, staff training)
- National level monitoring is being strengthened under the 2025 DPM pilot
- NAITS used for animal identification and tracking trends

IV. Rabies dimension

Rabies status – Endemic

Number of reported cases 2024: - 25

Number of reported cases 2025: - 5

Rabies Preventive Vaccination Campaign – 2024

- In 2024, a mass preventive rabies vaccination campaign was conducted nationwide
- The campaign covered:
 - 12 regions
 - 65 municipalities
 - 3,331 villages
 - 128,475 holdings

Total animals vaccinated: 309,714, including 218,348

Dogs: 91,295, cats: 71, other zoo animals

IV. Rabies dimension

Percentage of owned and stray dogs with a history of rabies, 2010–2024



Rabies cases in owned and stray dogs 2010 – 2024



Conclusions & Future Needs

Conclusions

- Georgia now has a comprehensive legal framework (2024–2025)
- National DPM structure strengthened via DPM Group
- Rabies cases decreasing due to mass vaccination

Future Needs

- Increase sterilisation coverage (>70% of free-roaming dogs annually)
- Improve municipal capacity & shelter standards
- Strengthen enforcement of registration and anti-abandonment rules
- Nationwide public awareness campaign
- Enhance data accuracy in NAITS
- Expand collaboration with WOAH, FAO, NGOs and municipalities

Thank you

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