



Animal Welfare: Current Situation in Kazakhstan

Almaty city

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Inucobo, Animal Protection Association of legal entities in the Republic of Kazakhstan



Laws of animals in Kazakhstan

- Civil Code dated December, 27 1994
- Criminal Code dated 3 July 2014
- Code of Administrative Offenses dated 5 July 2014
- Ecological Code dated 2nd January 2021
- Veterinary law dated 10 July 2002 & about 300 regulatory acts (mostly farm animals)
- The Law “On the protection, reproduction and use of wildlife” dated July 9th , 2004
- The Law “On Responsible Treatment to Animals” was adopted on 30th of December 2021.
- 14 Regulations were adopted, and more regulations are still to be adopted in connection with law adoption;
- Amendments, initiated by Members of Parliament, to the law “On Responsible Treatment to Animals” (worsening position of dogs and cats in Kazakhstan) are under revision.

Legal status of animals in Kazakhstan

- Legal status of animals is determined in the Civil Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan:
- According to Art. 124 of the Civil Code: “General rules of the thing shall apply to animals unless otherwise provided by law».
- As per the Law “On Responsible Attitude to Animals” animals are now deemed as creatures “able to experience pain and **physical sufferings**”;
- Principles of humane and responsible attitude towards animals were established;

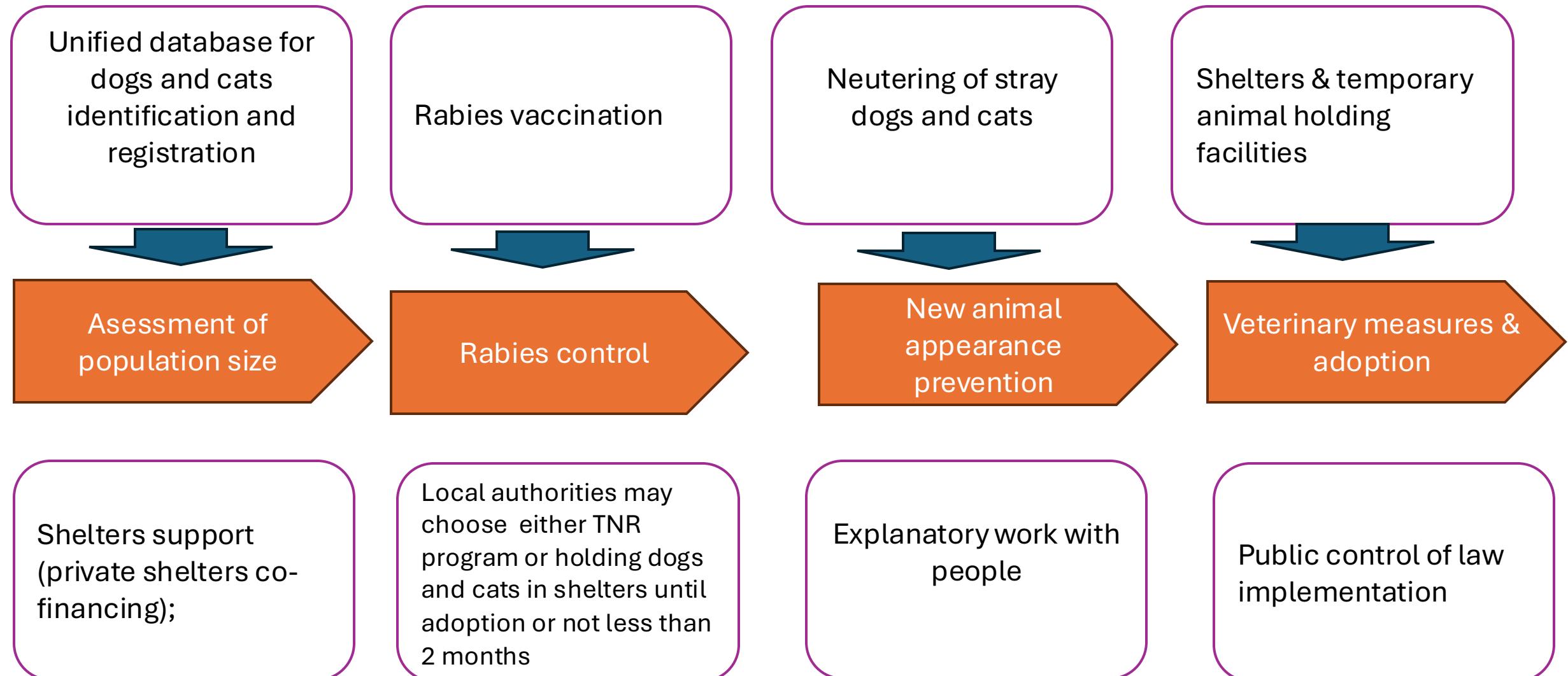
Acquisition of ownership and other property rights

Civil Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Chapter 13, article 246 “Stray animals” establishes order or ownership transfer.

As regards to the dogs, - if within **2 months** the owner is not found and does not claim ownership of them, ownership of the animals transfers to the person who had animal in his custody and use.

If the person refuses to own the animal, then animal should pass to state (communal) custody, and local authorities should use it in accordance with their regulations (art.31 of the law “On State Property”.

Concept of the Law “On the Responsible Attitude to Animals” dated 30 December 2021: Dogs and Cats Population Management



Implementation of the Law “On Responsible Attitude to Animals”

No unified data base
for dogs and cats
identification and
registration created

Rabies vaccination
Not fully performed

Neutering of stray dogs
and cats:
Only several oblasts or
cities and some of them
not on systematic basis

Shelters & temporary
animal holding facilities:
there is a lack of shelters
and facilities (there is a
need in 112 facilities)

*Different databases created.
Different oblasts use different
database, and do not see other
entries*

No private shelters
support: akimats do
not have mechanism
for co-financing

Out of 20 oblasts:
Only 1 city (Astana)
keeps dogs 2 months
in shelter, and only
several cities choose
TNR

Explanatory work with
people was not
performed

Public control of law
implementation: public
inspectors experience
difficulties to get certificates
and admission to state
facilities for dogs holding

Implementation of the Law

- No unified data base;
- Dogs killing continues in almost all oblasts of Kazakhstan;
- No mechanism for co-financing private shelters;
- TNR program was adopted in Uralsk city, Almaty city, Easten Kazakhstan oblast (1 year), Saran town – several cities out of 20 oblasts.
- Dogs trapping services including vaccination, identification were provided sometimes by non-qualified people: construction companies, individual entrepreneurs without duly skills and experience

Why the Law did not work?

- Local authorities of different oblasts sabotaged the law;
- Issues with the law:
- Some key norms were established not directly in the law, but in regulatory acts:
 - *For instance, “Regulations of vaccination and neutering the roaming dogs and cats” by Ministry of Ecology and natural Resources No. 171 dated 20 ay 2022 contains possibility to return dogs and cats back to habitat (art.22)*
 - *No obligation to neuter owned dogs and cats: weak wording of the law;*
 - *Weak wording on obligation for chipping the dogs;*
- No unified system created for dogs and cats identification & registration:
 - 4 different databases, and only 1 is transparent and available for veterinary clinics, but not every oblast purchased it;
- Law does not contain requirements to prevent appearance of new animals (neutering for all dogs having or not having the owner, excepting dogs for breeding);
- No requirement for owner to train the dog, that would prevent attacks.

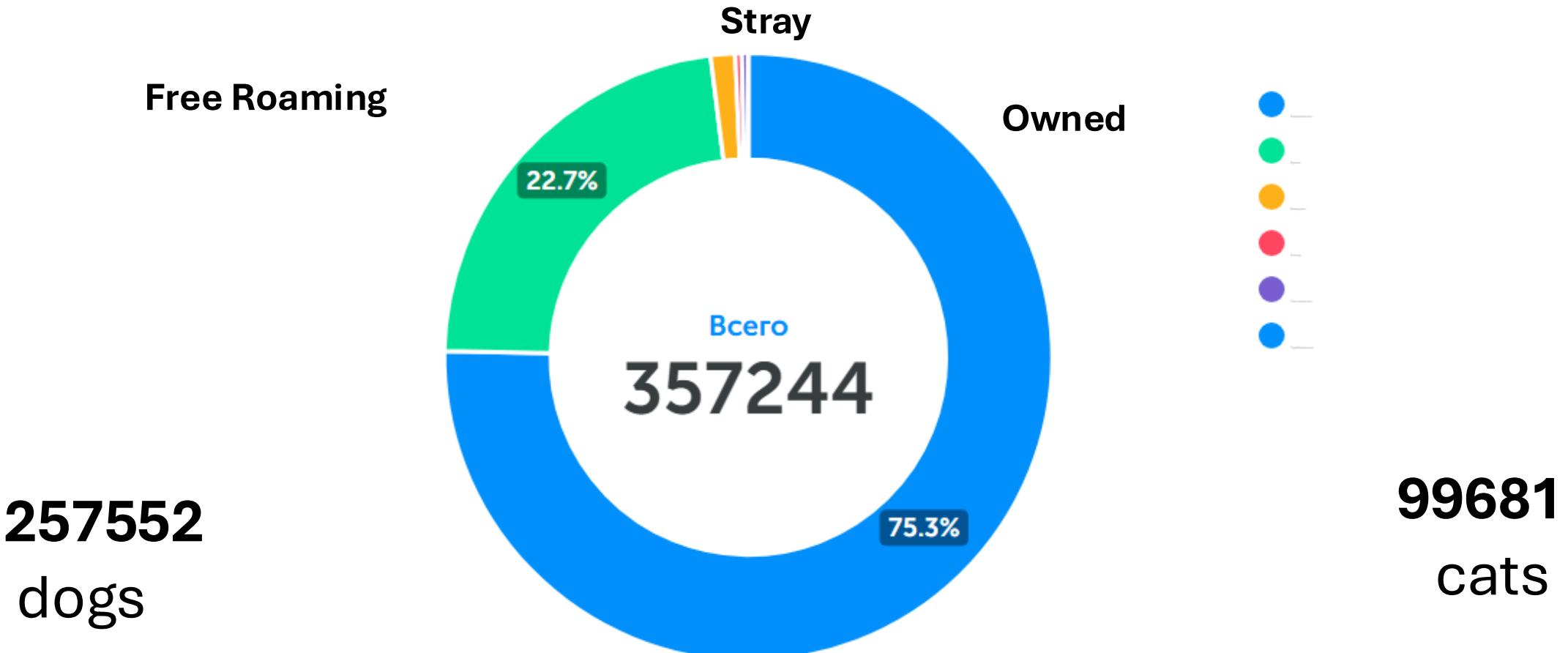
New Amendments initiated by Majilis (Lower House of Parliament)

- Exclude TNR programs;
- Members of Parliament proposed to expand basis for dogs killing:
except for real threats to human health and life, and his animal(s), and for euthanasia for diseases incompatible with life, uncontrolled aggression, members of Parliament proposed to kill dogs threatening to “social order” and ecology.
- Edit term “euthanasia” to read any kinds of killing.
- Reduce number of days to keep dogs in temporary facilities to 5 days;
- Exclude rabies vaccinations at the state budget. That would mean that state shelters and facilities will not vaccinate trapped dogs from rabies;
- Let owners to refuse from dogs and cats, and pass animals to the temporary facilities for trapped animals.

These amendments would not solve the problem with free roaming dogs and lead to irresponsible attitude towards animals.

Registered animals in Tanba

(<https://tanba.kezekte.kz>)



Number of state shelters and facilities for trapped dogs and cats

4 state shelters: **1** in Astana (capacity: 2000 dogs and 500 cats);
3 in Turkestan (capacity: not more than 20 dogs)?
and **89** temporary facilities*

There is still need in 112 facilities for holding trapped dogs (and cats).

*Numbers are taken from Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources No. ZT-2023-00698971 dated April, 21 2023.

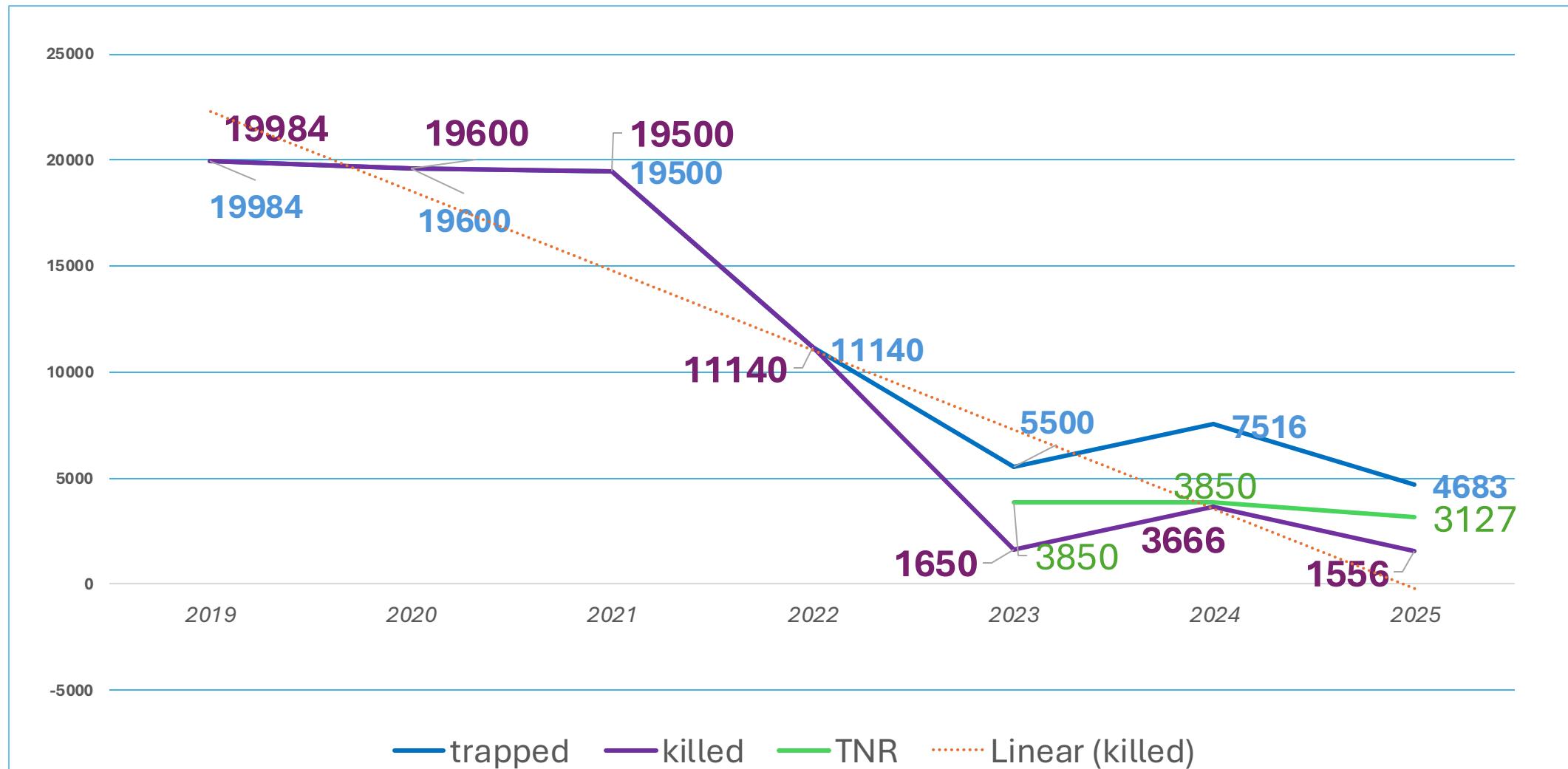
Rabies: some statistics based on responses from local authorities (akimats):

- Shymkent city: no rabies vaccination in 2023 - 2024 (bidding did not take place);
- Turkestan oblast: 10 registered cases of rabies for the period 2023 - 2025;
- Abai oblast – 3 registered cases of rabies;
- Zhambyl oblast: 5 cases;
- Northern Kazakhstan Oblast: 6 cases for the period of 2020-2025.
- Mangistau oblast – 1 case.

Astana city

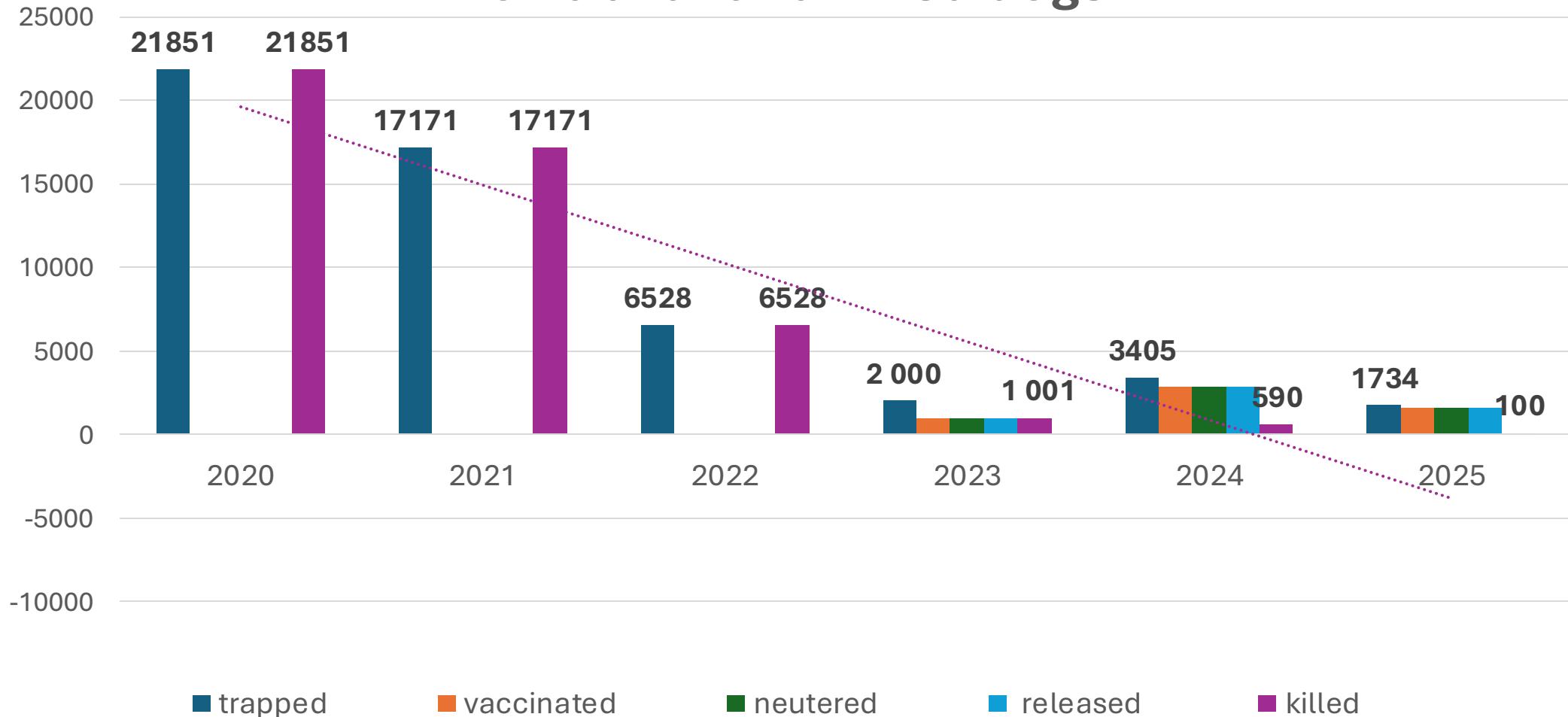
- No TNR;
- No euthanasia;
- Dogs and cats are trapped & kept in state shelter;
- Shelter is managed by Animal protection organization “Stopotlov” as per Trust Management Agreement dated 9.10.2022 for 3 years.
- Near 4000 dogs are kept in state shelter.
- Neutering started in June 2025, and now 80% of new coming dogs and cats are being neutered, but there are still dogs and cats kept in state earlier this date (near 2000 dogs).

Akmola oblast: number of trapped, released and killed dogs and cats

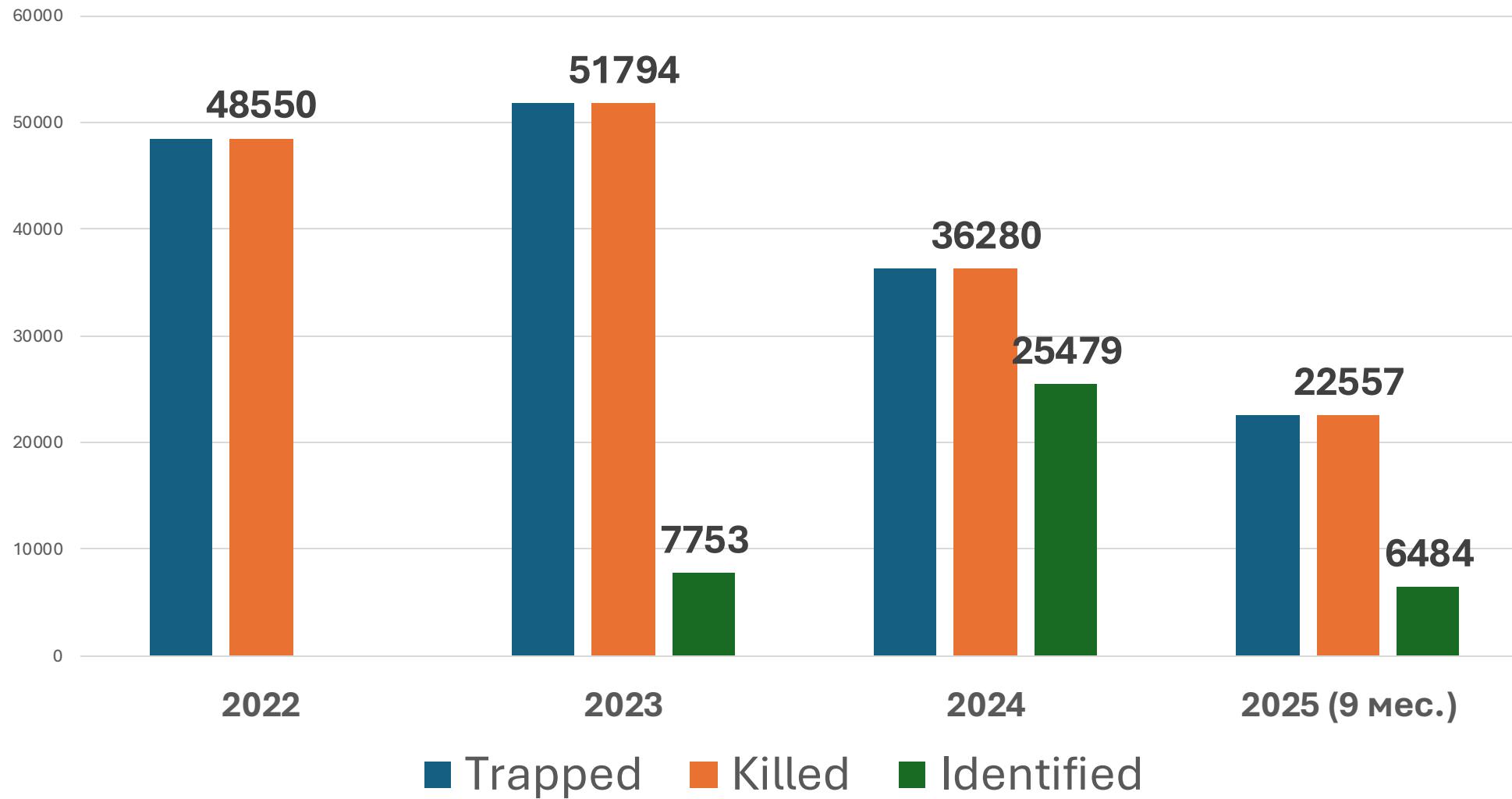


Karaganda Oblast

Number of trapped, vaccinated, neutered, released to habitat and killed dogs

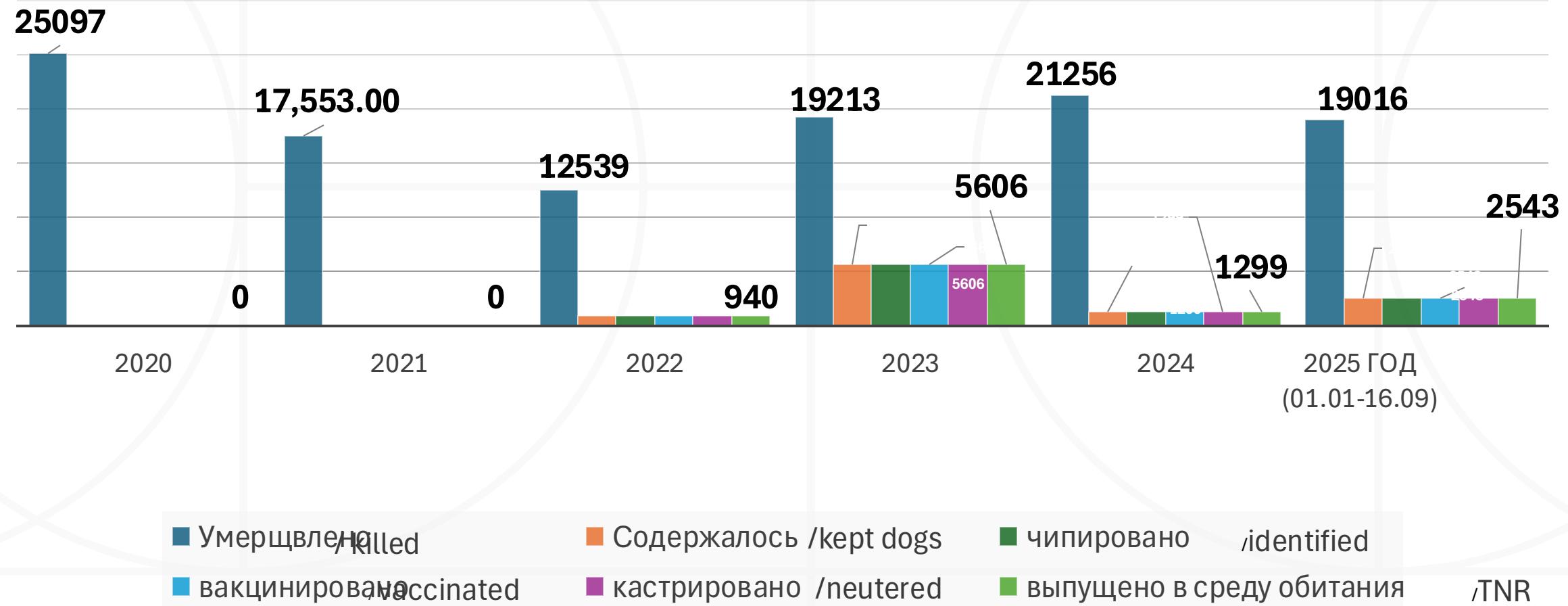


TURKESTAN OBLAST: number of trapped & killed dogs



Aktobe Oblast

The letter of Aktobe Oblast Veterinary Department dated 17.09.2025 No. ZhT-2025-03023880



Abai oblast – almost all dogs are killed

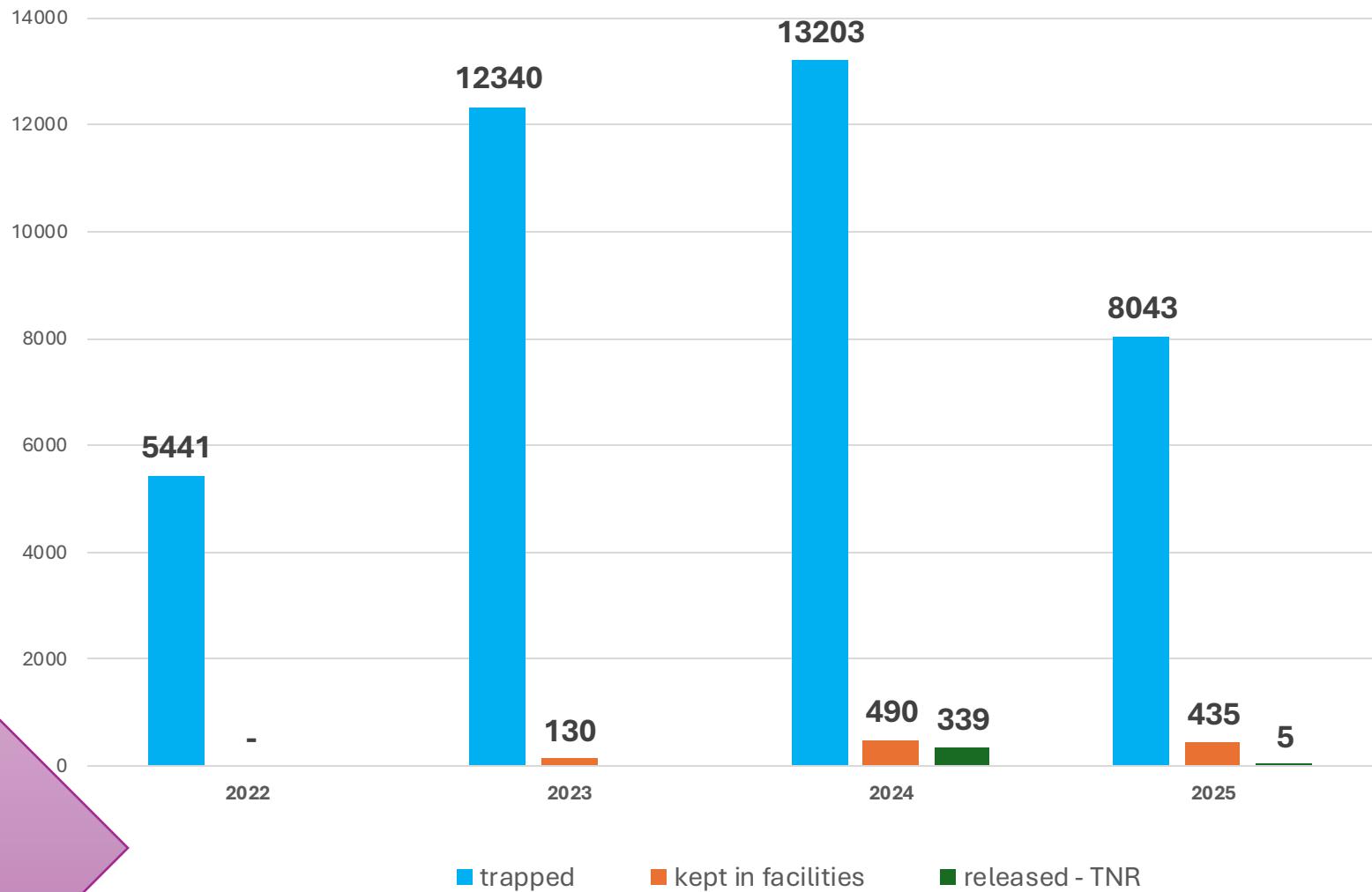
Oblast is established on 8 June 2022

0 state shelter

0 facility for keeping dogs

1 private shelter

Killed dogs = trapped - released



Ulytau oblast

was created in 2022 г.

Shelters – 0

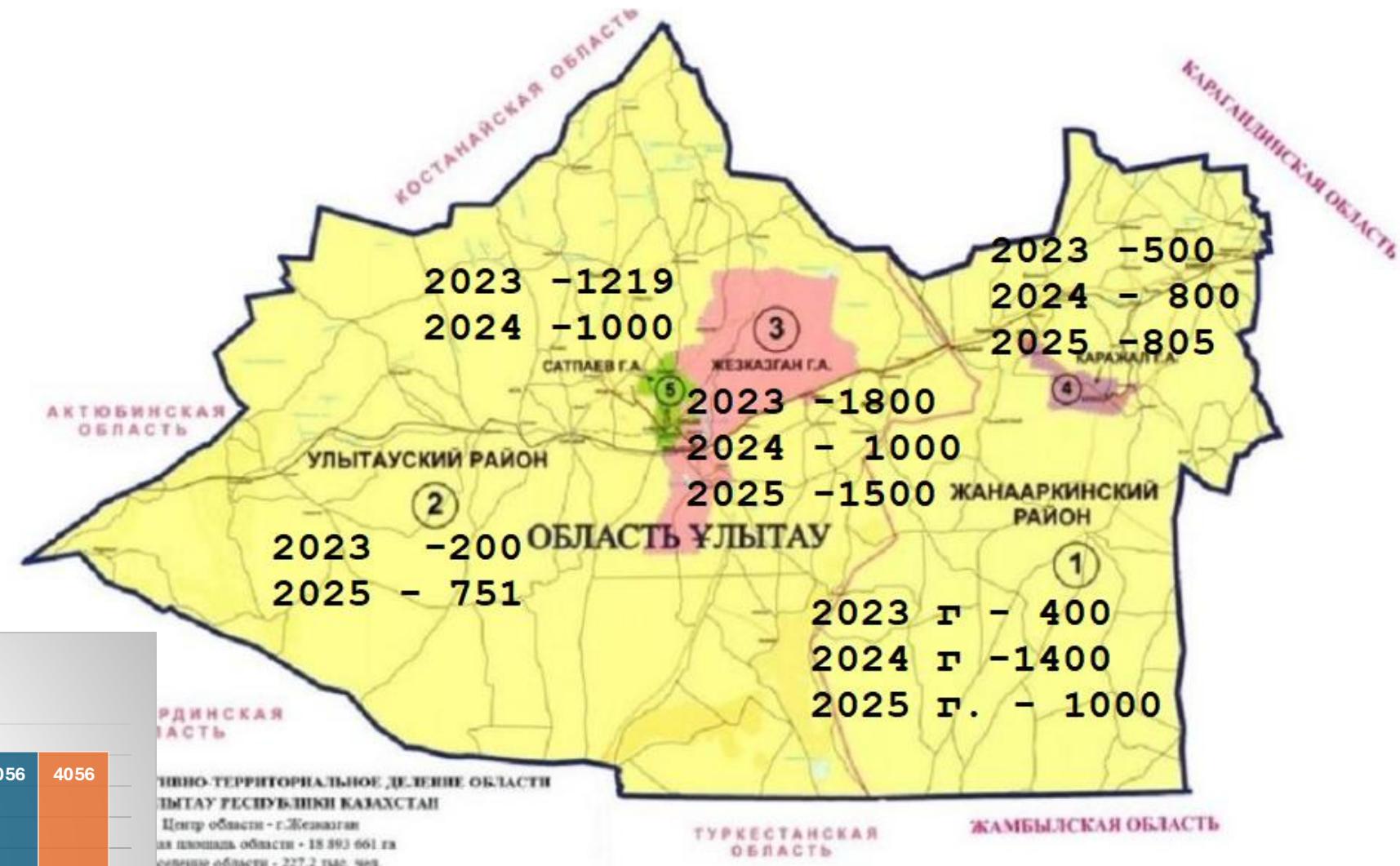
Facilities for holding dogs -0

19 Beccari pits

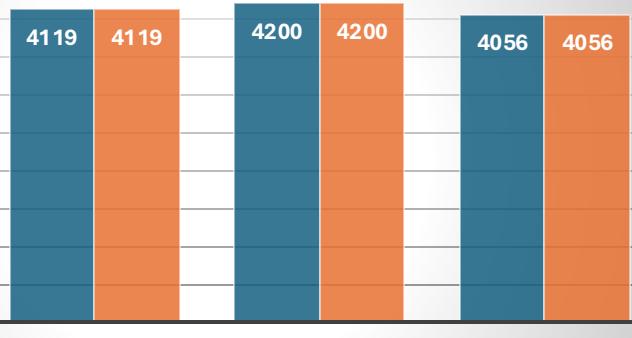
Identification - 0

Neutering -0

Vaccination -0



Область Улытау



■ Отловлено ■ Уничтожено

Zhambyl oblast

- 7 facilities for trapped animals temporary holding in Taraz city and 6 regions of Zhambyl oblast with total capacity 460 dogs;
- 1 private shelter in Sarysuk region;
- 47 Beccari pits in oblast (dead piles);
- 16 Beccari pits are under construction;
- 34 Beccari pits will be constructed in 2026-2028 гг.

Taraz city of Zhambyl oblast

- Contract is concluded with «Product of Qazaqstan» LLP, road construction company;
- 159 kept in facilities for temporary holding;
- 83 dogs rehomed;
- 10 dogs died;
- As of 08.09.25 66 dogs remained.

Letter dated 08.09.25 No. ZhT-2025-03023899/1

Zhualyn Region of Zhambyl oblast

- 1 facility for temporary holding trapped dogs, 5 Beccari pits;
- 955 dogs were trapped in 2024 г. собак;
- Neutered in 2024 20 dogs;
- Neutered in 2025 70 dogs;
- Identified & registered 1000 dogs in Itcor database in 2025;
- TNR: in 2024 – 11, in 2025 - 0.
- Killed (100%) by decision of village administration “due to the life and health threat”

Source: response of deputy akim of Zhualyn region of Zhambyl oblast Mr.Jatkanbayev

Thank you for attention