



OIE Platform
on Animal Welfare
for Europe

*Improving animal welfare in Europe by Empowering Veterinary Services
to comply with OIE international standards*

Third OIE Regional Workshop on Stray Dog population management for Balkan countries (SDB3)

Belgrade, Serbia 13-15 June 2018

Workshop Report



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The OIE Platform Secretariat would like to acknowledge the commitment and work carried out by countries in the Balkan region to progressively improve their compliance with OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code regarding stray dogs and rabies.

Introduction

The third OIE Regional Workshop on Stray Dog population management (SDB3) was organized in the framework of the stray dog roadmap for the Balkan countries. The SDB3 meeting was held in Belgrade, Serbia, on 13- 15 June 2015. The workshop was hosted by the Veterinary Services of Serbia and financed by the European Union, Switzerland and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The Stray Dog Roadmap for the Balkan countries was initiated during the first OIE Regional Workshop on Stray Dog population management for Balkan countries (SDB1) held in Bucharest, Romania, in June 2014¹. During this first workshop, participants agreed on a common sub-regional Vision to fully comply with Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on stray dog population control by 2025.

To help countries better understand their stray dog situation, the OIE, in collaboration with the OIE Collaborating Center for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare IZSAM Teramo, developed a stray dog Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool (SAM Tool). The SAM Tool was developed in an online questionnaire format based on Chapter 7.7 on Stray dog population control of TAHC. The SAM Tool also allows establishing the baseline and measuring the progress of country compliance with OIE standards on stray dog population control over time. The first stray dog assessment was initiated in February 2015, and all countries (except Montenegro) completed the survey. Based on this first self-assessment, ten **National Stray Dog Reports** were prepared to provide a comprehensive overview of the national situation and propose a way forward to build a national stray dog roadmap to achieve the regional Vision. Those reports provide background information for discussion on stray dog situation, main challenges, and way to address these issues during the Second OIE Regional Workshop on stray dog population management for Balkan countries (SDB2) held in June 2016 in Tirana (Albania)²

The **second stray dog self-assessment for Balkan countries** was launched in April 2018 to measure progress since the first self-assessment (2015) and reinforce efforts to fill remaining gaps towards full compliance. In addition, is a **new section on rabies** was included as part of the SAM Tool to improve the integration of dog population management with rabies prevention and control. The results of this second self-assessment help to identify the needs of the countries to meet the 2030 deadline for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies according to the OIE and WHO Global Framework for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies adopted in 2016. The results were presented and discussed during SDB3 Workshop in plenary sessions and individual country interviews.

Description

The main objective of the SDB3 Workshop was to assist countries' compliance with the OIE standards on stray dog population and rabies control with emphasis to provide further guidance on how to elaborate a Veterinary Services national plan for dog population control (with a rabies component).

More specifically, the Workshop aimed at:

- Discuss national and regional situation regarding stray dog population control and measures progress since 2016 towards the agreed Vision and remaining challenges
- Advance in the preparation a **Veterinary Services national plan for dog population control**
- Discuss the implementation and evaluation of the **OIE Awareness Campaign**
- Discuss how to address dog mediated rabies as part of the Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CPs), and the preparation of World Rabies Day celebrations for 2018

¹ <http://rpawe.oie.int/index.php?id=153>

² <http://rpawe.oie.int/index.php?id=154>

The methodology of SDB3 was developed to ensure active engagement of participants and included:

- **National stray dog situation reports** by countries with focus on the changes since the first self-evaluation (based on a harmonized template provided by OIE Platform Secretariat)
- **Individual country interviews** to get some more detailed information on the challenges confronted by countries using the 2nd stray dog self-assessment (2018) country reports
- **Expert presentations** on selected topics directly identified by countries in consultation with the Platform Secretariat prior to the meeting
- **Plenary presentations and plenary quizzes** on OIE and OIE Platform activities, Chapter 7.7 of TAHC, the Global Strategic Plan to Prevent Human Deaths from Dog-Transmitted Rabies by 2030
- **Country experience sharing** on key selected topics
- **Working groups exercise** for more comprehensive discussion on the proposed template of a Veterinary Services national plan for dog population control
- **Regional Animal Welfare Centre (RAWC)/ International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM) workshop session** on dog population counting survey and setting indicators for dog population management
- **A field visit** to the Belgrade municipal dog shelter in Rakovica

All **eleven countries** of the OIE Stray Dog Roadmap for the Balkans, as follows: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia (FYROM), Greece, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey were invited to participate in the SDB3 workshop. Two participants per country ('stray dog points of contact') were invited to attend, namely:

- the nominated **OIE National Focal Point for Animal Welfare** working at central level of the Veterinary Services and in charge of policy and coordination with other stakeholders
- a **veterinarian working for a municipality/ local Veterinary Services** on stray dog population control, nominated by the OIE Delegate

All countries attended the SDB3 Workshop except Albania and Croatia. In total 32 participants contributed to the works, including country representatives, speakers and observers.

* This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Main outcomes

1

The **participants gained a thorough understanding of new technical topics**, such as the identification and registration of dogs (including the establishment of a national database), assessing animal welfare in shelters, assessment of dog aggression and socialization tests, establishment of a register of dog breeders and control of movement of dogs, dog population estimation survey and setting indicators for dog population management.

2

The **participants gained a thorough** understanding of their **national and regional situation** regarding stray dog population control and measures, **progress achieved since 2016** towards the agreed Vision (compliance with Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on stray dog population control by 2025) and **remaining challenges**

3

The **participants confirmed that the Vision (compliance with Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on stray dog population control by 2025)** agreed in June 2014 **remains achievable**, although considerable efforts are still needed to reach full compliance

4

The platform set up a networking facility to bring together a **'stray dog managers'** (as they were indicated during the workshops) pool in the Balkans. The platform must verify if this network started producing results.

5

The participants improved their understanding of **how to build a Veterinary Services national plan for dog population control**, to support local governmental authorities in the development and implementation of **Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CPs)**. The template of this plan developed by the "stray dog task " was presented and discussed with the participants.

6

The feedback received from the SDB3 participants indicated that they:

- (i) rated as excellent the logistical organization of the event;
- (ii) were very satisfied with the proposed agenda and technical content of the workshop;
- (iii) found meeting useful to identify possible (corrective) actions to improve stray dog population control in their countries;
- (iv) fully support the development of the stray dog Roadmap process development in the Balkans.

Next steps

The following steps were agreed:

- 1** [Countries] - **To explore the relevance of developing Veterinary Services national plan for dog population control** to support local governmental authorities in the development and implementation of **Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CPs)**, in compliance with OIE standards, and to ensure monitoring and evaluation of their implementation
- 2** [Countries] - **To consider conducting the self-assessment regularly** using the SAM Tool in have an understanding of their progress over time, and especially to conduct third self-assessment before the SDB4 with the SAM Tool 1.0, in collaboration with IZSAM
- 3** [Countries] – **To define a list of relevant indicators and monitor implementation of the OIE awareness campaign** on responsible dog ownership in the country
- 4** [OIE] **To report the outcomes of the SDB3 workshop** to the OIE General Director and to the Steering Group of the OIE Platform on AW for Europe during next SG meeting (London, December 2018)
- 5** [OIE] **To organize the SDB4 Workshop in 2020** (provided funding is available), to support Balkan Countries in the implementation of their national Roadmaps and to monitor their progressive compliance with Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on stray dog population

Day by day report

13 June 2018

Official opening

The workshop was officially opened by the Serbia OIE Delegate, Dr Budimir Plavšić and Dr Nadège Leboucq OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels. Dr Plavšić welcomed all participants in Serbia, underlined the importance of stray dog population control in the region and the sharing of countries' experience regarding the work towards full compliance with OIE standards on stray dog population by 2025.

Dr Nadège Leboucq welcomed the participants on behalf of OIE Director General Dr Monique Eloit and expressed gratitude to the Veterinary Services of Serbia for hosting the event and to the donors (European Union, Switzerland and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) for providing financial support.

The opening remarks stressed the role of the national Veterinary Services in stray dog population control. The national veterinary services are in the position to address stray dog population control at national level in collaboration with various actors, that operate on national regional and local levels. Also, the education and building awareness activities on are an important part of the long-term solution for stray dog population control. The dog population control are integral part of rabies control programmes. All activities need to be supported by modern and adapted legislation. The OIE has several lines of action for stray dog population control. The Chapter 7.7 of TAHC adopted in 2009 provides comprehensive and holistic approach to stray dog population control. The global network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaboration Centres provide necessary scientific support. The OIE in collaboration with WHO, FAO and GARC developed Global framework for elimination of dog mandate rabies and Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. The OIE also launched Stray dog Roadmap in the Balkans with regional Vision agreed by all countries to become fully compliant with OIE Chapter 7.7. on stray dog population control by 2025.

Session 1 — Setting the scene session

Plenary lecture: OIE new developments on Animal Welfare Leopoldo Stuardo OIE Standards Department (by teleconference).

In May 2017, the OIE adopted the Global Animal Welfare Strategy with the vision of "A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability". The OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy is built on four following pillars: development of animal welfare standards, capacity building and education, communication with governments, organisations and the public, and implementation of animal welfare standards and policies.

The new developments of the OIE Standards on animal welfare adopted during the 86th OIE General Session included a revised definition of animal welfare, guiding principles for the use of measurables to assess animal welfare and a new Chapter on animal welfare and pig production system. The OIE will continue to work on the development of two new Chapters of TAHC on the killing methods of farmed reptiles for skin and meat production, and on animal welfare and laying hen production system. In addition, the OIE carries out a process of a review and harmonisation of OIE TAHC starting with Chapters 7.5 slaughter of animals and 7.6 killing for disease control purposes. The OIE recall the importance of the participation of Member States in development of the OIE Standards through in draft consultation process. Activities under the capacity building and education pillar include National Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars, Train of trainers on transport and slaughter of animals (Europe and the Middle East) and Whole Journey Scenario Workshops (Europe and the Middle East). The implementation of animal welfare standards and policies in Member Countries is supported through Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms including identification of regional priorities, development

of action plans, coordination of activities, strengthening collaboration, and monitoring and evaluation of implementation progress. As part of the communication pillar, the OIE organised the Animal Welfare Global Forum to discuss with governments, animal welfare stakeholders about the development of animal welfare policies and activities at global level, to identify new sources of expertise and educational programs, communication and raising awareness activities, and to gather evidences on the need to review or establish new international standards on animal welfare.

Plenary lecture - OIE / WHO Global Framework and Global Strategic Plan to the elimination of dog mediated rabies T. Grudnik (OIE)

Rabies is a neglected disease with 100% mortality but still 100% preventable. Rabies kills annually nearly 59.000 people worldwide. Hundreds of thousands of animals die of rabies every year, and that creates suffering for individual animals and for the families who depend on these animals as a source of livelihood. More than 95% of human cases of rabies are due to bites from infected dogs. Around 40% of people bitten by suspect rabid animals are children under 15 years of age. Regular vaccination of dogs is the best method to control rabies and a sustainable vaccination rate of 70% of the at-risk dog population helps to eliminate dog-mediated rabies. During the Global conference on elimination of dog-mediated human rabies held in Geneva in December 2015, the World Organization for Animal Health, World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) have set the goal of eliminating dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030 and launched the Global strategic framework for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies³. This framework provides a coordinated approach and vision for the global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies and is intended to harmonise actions and provide adaptable, achievable guidance for country and regional strategies. The global framework is built on the five pillars combining socio-cultural, technical, organisational, political, and resource-oriented aspects. Following to the adoption of a Global Strategic Framework, OIE, WHO, FAO and GARC, in consultation with relevant global, regional and country stakeholders, have developed the Global Strategic Plan to Prevent Human Deaths from Dog-Transmitted Rabies by 2030⁴. The Global Strategic Plan set three objectives for affected countries, development partners, and key stakeholders: (1) to effectively use vaccines, medicines, tools, and technologies that will stop dog rabies transmission and reduce the risk of human rabies deaths; (2) to generate evidence-based guidance and high-quality data to measure impact and inform policy decisions; and (3) to harness multistakeholder engagement to sustain commitment and resources. The Global Strategic Plan puts countries at the centre with renewed international support to act. The United Against Rabies collaboration (OIE, WHO, FAO and GARC) call for countries, organisation and experts to engage in the implementation of this Plan and, in order to reach the goal of zero dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030.

Plenary lecture - OIE Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe – New development since 2016 N. Leboucq (OIE)

The OIE Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe was established 2013 with the general objective to improve animal welfare in all 53 countries of Europe and to empower Veterinary Services to take action on animal welfare in compliance with the OIE standards. The First Action Plan of the OIE Platform for 2014-2016 was successfully, completely and cost-effectively implemented. As the continuation of the first Action Plan, the second Action Plan for 2017 – 2019 keeps the three priority topics: transport of animals by land, slaughter of animals and stray dog population control. In addition, the second Action Plan also covers two new issues of relevance to the region: the welfare of animals in disasters and the welfare of working equids.

The activities of OIE Platform in 2017-2018 have a strong focus on animal welfare during long distance transport. The OIE developed training modules on long distance transport by land and by sea, organized three

³ http://www.who.int/rabies/control/Poster_Global_framework_for_the_elimination_of_dog-mediated_human_rabies.pdf

⁴ http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/Rabies_portal/Zero_by_30_Final_130618.pdf

“Train the trainers’ workshops and one regional seminar on long distance transport by land and established the OIE regional network of experts on animal welfare during long distance transport in Europe. The objective of this network is to exchange of information and best practices on long distance transport. The network will be animated by the OIE Platform Secretariat and used in next capacity building activities. In addition, OIE regional network of experts on animal welfare during long distance transport from was also established for the Middle East region. The OIE developed a new concept – ‘Whole journey scenario workshop’ that aims to improve the welfare conditions of live animals traveling through different countries by gathering the competent authorities of all Member Countries involved in the long distance along a specific route to initiate the development of harmonized procedures, sharing information and strengthening collaboration. The first (pilot) Whole Journey Scenario workshop involving Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan was held in Poland in April 2018. As proved useful, next Whole Journey Scenario workshops will be organised involving countries in Europe and the Middle East.

Also, new pilot event, the first workshop on natural disaster management is planned in October 2018 enhance Balkan countries preparedness for natural disasters with a focus on animal welfare issues. The prosed new approach to improve OIE Member countries’ disaster management and response capacity in Europe, as the 3-year ‘process’ will be piloted in Balkan countries using a flooding scenario. If successful, the approach implementation in other parts of Europe for different situations.

In conclusion, the implementation of the 2nd Action Plan is on the right track, with continuation, follow up and new activities, and OIE already initiates developing the third action plan.

Country experience - Best practices in promotion of OIE standards for stray dog management by non-governmental organizations involved in animal welfare and local economic development T. Causevic (NALED, Serbia).

The National Alliance for Local Economic Development (NALED) is a civil society organisation bringing together representatives of all three sectors of the society – companies, municipalities, and NGO working on improving the conditions for Local Economic Development in Serbia. The majority of municipalities in Serbia are members of NALED and, as stated in the national animal welfare legislation, the municipal authorities are responsible for stray dog population control programmes. According to ORCA report and NALED survey for six years (2010-2015), over 170 000 stray dogs have been caught in Serbia, almost 77 500 bites from stray dog were reported and a total of 25 million EURO compensations damage due stray dog bites was paid. The number of dog shelters in Serbia raised from four shelters in 2009 to 43 shelters in 2015. In addition, all surveyed municipalities (123) report the problem of stray dog attacks to be “very frequent”, 78.8% of municipalities do not have Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CP) in place and 96% state they need help to solve the problem.

In April 2018, a Round Table was organised by Ministry of Agriculture, NALED and ORCA with 160 participants from local services municipalities, in order to discuss long-term systematic solutions and concrete and practical tools to be applied at local level to address stray dog issues, especially the high number of reported stray dog bites and high damage compensations costs. Participants agreed upon the following recommendations for actions at national level: developing a National strategy for the control of stray dog population, establishing a centralized register for damages claims, building capacities in the Veterinary Directorate, upgrade of centralized database for registration of all animals, open dialogue on decentralization of the competencies/enforcement, launching responsible ownership campaign, organization of mass spaying/neutering programs, unification of medical documentation and procedures on dog attack examination, and unification of court practices related to damages compensation. The recommendations for actions on local level include creating local programs for the control of the stray dog population, in line with local specificities, improve effectiveness community services and shelters through standardizing work procedures, organizing education of dog owners, and developing and applying rules of procedures for local commissions deciding on out-of-court settlements on procedures related to dog attacks.

QUIZZ - Reminders on Chapter 7.7 on Stray dog population control N. Leboucq / All

Presentation in the form of interactive quiz recalled key facts about Chapter 7.7 on Stray dog population control of OIE TAHC. The OIE TAHC defines stray as any dog not under direct control by a person or not prevented from roaming, including free-roaming owned dog, free-roaming dog with no owner, feral dog. The objectives of a programme to control the dog population covers improving health and welfare of owned and stray dogs, promoting responsible ownership, assisting in the creation and maintenance of a rabies immune or rabies free dog population, reducing the risk of other zoonotic diseases., managing other risks to human health, preventing harm to the environment and other animals and reducing numbers of stray dogs to an acceptable level. Veterinary Services should play a lead role in preventing zoonotic diseases and ensuring animal welfare and should be involved in dog population control, coordinating their activities with other competent public institutions and/or agencies. The development of the Dog Population Control Programmes should include identifying the sources of stray dogs, estimating the existing number, distribution and ecology, regulatory framework and resources available to authorities. The list of possible control measures includes education and legislation for responsible ownership; registration and identification of dogs; reproductive control; removal and handling; rapture and return, rehoming or release; environmental controls; control of dog movement; regulation of commercial dog dealers; reduction in dog bite incidence and euthanasia. Euthanasia should not be used as a single measure and massive culling of dog populations is not sustainable and not effective stray dog population control measure. Monitoring and evaluation are crucial elements of dog population control programmes to check the programmes progress and their impact.

Session 2 — Understanding country's situation and progress since 2016

Country Reports

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina recognizes that stray dogs still pose a problem in the country. The general situation has remained stable since 2016 but with slight improvements. The **legislative framework on identification and keeping records for dogs, cats and ferrets** has been recently adopted and has entered in force on 1st June 2018. The implementation of this new regulation will be supported by education and awareness campaigns. The implementation of a **new regulation on identification and registration** will allow to have good understanding of the dog population structure and composition at country level.

Bosnia and Herzegovina have adopted multi-annual rabies control and eradication programme for the period 2017–2022 with the objective of reducing the number of rabies cases through progressive control and eradication measures including oral vaccination of foxes in the entire country. The last rabies case was reported in 2014.

To date there is no national dog population control strategy or programme at country level but there are some stray dog population control programs developed on local level. In addition, several new dog shelters have been established. Also, it is observed an increasing number of stray dogs exported.

Planned next steps in Bosnia and Herzegovina will focus on the implementation of a new regulation on dog identification and registration and the development of a national approach for stray dog control.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria the legislative framework regarding owned and stray dog include: general animal protection law; regulation on minimum requirements for establishments in which animals are raised, bred and / or marketed for the purpose of commerce, boarding houses and animal shelters; and procedures of the inspection of stray dogs shelters. Dog Population Control Programmes are only developed at municipalities' level and a national programme for the control of stray dog is currently under development.

Municipal programs for controlling the population of stray dogs are developed with objectives to analyse issues that allow reducing the number of stray dogs; addressing the source of stray dogs including dog registration and identification, reproductive control of owned dogs and stray dogs (surgical sterilisation) and capture and return, rehoming or release. Monitoring and evaluation of dog population are based on an established list of specific indicators for owned and stray dogs. Municipalities submit monthly reports to Regional Food Safety Directorates, collated data are sent monthly to Bulgarian Food Safety Authority, and annual reports are provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. In Bulgaria, 96% of the municipalities have adopted a Dog Population Control Programme (DP-CP).

Bulgaria has an increasing number of registered shelters, with 47 establishments registered (9 are owned by NGOs) as by June 2018 in the online National Register of shelters. Enhanced control of shelters verifies the compliance with animal health and welfare rules (registration, identification, vaccination, treatment against parasites and uploading the data into the national database), as well as the implementation of Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CP).

In Bulgaria, rabies is a notifiable disease and only 2 cases of rabies were reported over the last five years (in 2014). The program to prevent, control and eradicate rabies for the period 2016 -2018 is in place in the country and it is part of the Co-financed activities under GF-TAD umbrella. One of main objectives is to ensure the eradication of rabies by oral vaccination of foxes on the territory of North and South of Bulgaria and on the territory of a 20 km vaccine belt along the northern border with Romania (along Danube River). The vaccination of foxes is carried out twice a year in the spring and autumn (March-May and September-November), by air and hand distribution of vaccine baits within 16 administrative areas.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

In FYR of Macedonia stray dog still pose a problem. Since 2016, The Food and Veterinary Agency has not carried out any survey to observe the trends in the stray dog population. However, according to the available data (e.g. from the authorised shelters), a slight drop in the number of the stray dogs is observed. In March 2018, a pilot stray dog survey was conducted with the support of the RSPCA in the Skopje municipality, according to the ICAM methodology. This survey was organised as part of a Training of Trainers workshops program, and similar surveys will be implemented in other municipalities within the country. A campaign for mass electronic identification of dogs with microchips will start in September 2018 and a procurement procedure for 100.000 microchips has been already launched.

FYROM has adopted a three-year animal welfare strategy including the action plan for its implementation. However, there is no specific national dog population control strategy/programme.

Several new relevant regulations are currently under development: the regulation on dog breeders and pet shops, the regulation on dog socialization tests, and governmental decision on financing activities on animal welfare.

There was no rabies case reported in FYROM over the last five years. Rabies is a notifiable disease, and the rabies regulatory framework for animal health is in place including measures for notification, prevention, control and elimination of rabies. In addition to dog vaccination campaigns, oral vaccination of foxes and disease surveillance, the education and raising awareness campaigns are part of prevention and control of rabies activities.

The planned next steps for to stray dog population control in FYROM will focus on the electronic identification of the dogs, and following a pilot survey in Skopje, on stray dog surveys in other municipalities across the country. In addition, the establishment of 'Local Task Force' teams (with external expert available to them for advice) who will work directly with the municipalities (regions) to help them to establish proper dog population control plans is also foreseen.

Greece

The population of stray dogs is a significant problem in Greece especially in urban areas. During the period of the financial crisis, this population remains high (40.608 registered). The number of stray dogs is estimated by records kept by municipalities, which collect data regarding capture and identification/registration. (e.g. Association of Municipalities of Athens and Piraeus, Thessaloniki etc.). There are currently no reliable data concerning the number of owned and stray dogs at national level. The national IT database for registration run by the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food is fully operational since December 2015. A significant percentage of stray dogs are still formerly owned dogs that have been abandoned and reproduce freely. According to the national legal framework, municipalities are responsible for the management of stray dogs. Stray dogs are being captured and transferred to animal shelters or veterinary clinics (municipal or private) where they are identified (microchipped) and registered in the national online database, surgically sterilized, dewormed, vaccinated against rabies and released back to the place of capture (if appropriate) or offered up for adoption.

Greece was a rabies free country until the October 2012 when the virus was detected in a red fox in Kozani area. Forty-eight animals have been tested positive for rabies including 5 dogs. No new incidents have been reported since June 2014. Greece has in place a National strategy for the prevention, control and elimination of rabies include control of dog movement.

Despite having a national legal framework in compliance with OIE standards about the control of the population of stray dogs, the implementation of the regulatory provisions is still insufficient in Greece. Veterinary services are aware of the need for a fully compliant scheme for the control of the stray dog population. A digital service is under development and is expected to improve the national coordination and supervising system concerning the control of stray dogs. Political decisions and sufficient financial resources are needed, in order to achieve full compliance with Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on stray dog population control by 2025.

Kosovo*

Stray dogs present a problem in Kosovo and an increasing number of these animals can be observed. Unfortunately, the number of stray dogs in Kosovo is unknown because there was no stray dog's estimation or counting conducted between 2016 and 2018. Since 2016 two new legislative acts are in place: regulation on stray dog shelters and regulation on stray animals' identification.

The last rabies cases in Kosovo were reported in 2007 in wild animals in two foxes. Kosovo has in place the strategy for prevention, control and elimination of rabies with implementing regulatory framework and all dogs are included rabies vaccination programme. There have been undertaken two oral vaccinations of foxes against rabies campaigns funded by EU in cooperation with the Food and Veterinary Agency, and the last campaign was conducted in spring 2018.

Kosovo in 2018 started catch-neuter-release (including identification and vaccination) programme with 70 authorised points across the country. Currently, dogs are identified with ear tags, but a system of identification with microchips is scheduled to be launch in the second semester of 2018. In addition, construction of seven shelters in seven regions of Kosovo is planned. From 2016 to 2018, the Food and Veterinary Agency implemented a responsible dog ownership awareness campaign using materials provided by OIE Platform.

Montenegro

Stray dogs still pose a problem in Montenegro. Their number increased over the last years and its estimation is based on subjective observation, on the number of reported dog bites and on the number of euthanized animals. Collection of data from shelters on euthanasia and about the number of dogs from the local municipalities at national level was initiated. Public calls for NGO to develop methodology and to assess the number of dogs in municipalities were recently launched. A good understanding of the country situation on stray dog counting campaigns and a regular collection of comparable data on dog population and about status from shelters and private veterinarians are still needed. Montenegro is planning the development of national

dog population control strategy/programme with a tentative deadline set for the first quarter of 2019. In parallel, several activities on stray dog have been implemented:

- "Be his hero" OIE campaign – promotional materials and series of workshop and info sessions to promote responsible ownership in cooperation with NGOs targeting different stakeholders
- a new shelter has been established in Ulcinj and the capacity of the Podgorica shelter has been increased
- governmental public calls have been launched for NGOs to improve shelter facilities (100.000€)
- new legislation for dangerous dogs' breeds

Planned next steps to control stray dogs in Montenegro include: promotion of responsible dog ownership, registration and identification of dogs, development of methodology for counting of dog and dissemination of results.

Romania

Stray dogs still pose a problem in Romania. However, according to the estimations made by the city councils with existing stray dog shelters, the stray dogs' number dropped in recent years.

A national dog population control programme was developed with the objective to promote the responsible dog ownership, and to keep under control the dog population through identification, registration and sterilisation. New shelters were established; the number of sterilised dogs increased; controls have been carried out in stray dog shelters of city councils and associations for animal protection during which the compliance with the requirements was checked (capturing, housing, medical treatments, diseases control, feeding, cleaning, euthanasia, adoption). In addition, educational campaigns for promotion of sterilisation, identification and registration, were organized in partnership with the College of Romanian Veterinarians, especially in rural area.

Rabies is still present in Romania, although the number of cases significantly dropped over the last five years. In 2017, no cases of rabies were confirmed except 1 case in dogs and 1 case in cattle. Romania has in place a national strategy with its objectives of surveillance, control and monitoring rabies and decreasing the spreading of rabies among domestic animals and wildlife, gradually leading to eradication of rabies. The strategy targets all animals susceptible to rabies virus in urban, rural and forest areas and includes campaigns of oral vaccinations of foxes.

The national stray dog strategy is based on the OIE recommendations and the European Convention on protection of pet animals: reducing their numbers, capturing, identification, registration (to prevent the abandonment) and sterilization (to limit the reproduction), vaccination against rabies, improving health and welfare, encouraging (remote) adoptions, euthanasia. Planned next steps focus on the implementation of the national strategy and to follow the National Control Plan while performing the planned inspections in the dog shelters, using the checklist template and considering past deficiencies.

Serbia

In Serbia, the Veterinary Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection is the centralised Competent Authority responsible for animal health and welfare, safety of food of animal origin throughout all stages of production, processing and distribution, including competence in the area of animal reproduction, animal feed, VMP and residues. Owned dogs are registers in centralized database and the number of owned dog remained stable over last year around 280.000. In 2007 Veterinary Directorate developed a system for identification by transponders, registration of owned dogs and owner's data in central database, dog passports, vaccination against rabies and data analysis system. However, stray dogs still pose a problem in Serbia with free roaming owned dogs and abandoned ones identified as the main sources of stray animals.

Program for the control and reduction of the population of abandoned dogs and cats is a legal obligation of the local government. The local government is obliged to provide: collection, transport, accommodation, assistance and veterinary care in the shelter; humane killing; development and implementation of programs for the control and reduction of the stray dog population. The other control measures implemented in the country

cover identification and registration, surgical sterilisation, shelters registration, control of dog movement, registration of breeding establishments, reduction of bites incidence and awareness campaigns on responsibility of the owner and licence of dangerous dogs.

In Serbia, there were no rabies cases reported in domestic animals since 2013, but rabies is still present in wildlife with one fox case reported in 2017. Rabies eradication program includes vaccination of dogs and cats, oral vaccination of wild carnivores, surveillance and monitoring and education and public awareness activities.

The absence of an officially approved strategy for stray dog population management at national level, the lack of financial resources and limited communication and collaboration of all stakeholders are identified as weak points. However, the Veterinary Directorate has already initiated a process for developing a national strategy in consultation with other relevant Ministries, local government authorities and stakeholders.

Turkey

Stray dogs still pose a problem in Turkey. However, the number of stray dogs observed over the past three years in the country tends to decrease. An adequate regulatory framework is in place. In Turkey, there are three main bodies responsible for stray dogs. The Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs is the main coordinator and responsible for inspection, financial support, public awareness and education. The Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock is responsible for animal disease control, preventing zoonotic diseases, and registration and identification of owned dogs and cats. The local administration is responsible for capturing, sterilisation, vaccination, release, treatment and feeding of stray animals and establishing animal shelters.

To control the dog population and to provide animal welfare, municipalities are supported by the government in terms of financial aspect with support for shelter, sterilisation, identification and microchip support. The government also supports the municipalities to establish shelter with financial assistance up to 40 per cent of total costs.

Rabies is present and is a notifiable disease in Turkey. Stray dogs pose a threat with regard to rabies transmission to humans and there are recorded human cases originating from stray dog biting. Over last five years there was in total 11 human rabies cases in Turkey caused both by dogs and wild animals. The number of rabies cases in domestic and wild animals has decreased over the last four years. The rabies control measures cover legal base, control of stray dogs, dog vaccination, quarantine measures, laboratory diagnosis, public information and training programs, and a programme for oral vaccination of foxes.

Since 2014, a database is established to record and monitor stray animals, and it is used by veterinarians working in shelters and by the authorities. The operations (vaccination, sterilisation, treatments) done by veterinarians are recorded in the database and monitored by authorities. The database provides information about animal identification, numbers of vaccination, sterilisation, ear tagging, microchipping, treatment and information about shelters (contact details, locations and personnel).

Capturing, sterilisation, vaccination, release of stray animals and establishment of animal shelters are carried out by municipalities but due to financial limitations, those activities couldn't be conducted systematically.

14 June 2018

Session 2 — Understanding country's situation and progress since 2016 (cont.)

Plenary lecture - Results of the second self-assessment (regional trends) and remaining gaps to achieve the Vision T. Grudnik

The second stray dog self-assessment round was launched on 8 April 2018 and 9 out of 11 countries completed the questionnaire. The OIE Platform secretariat developed nine draft Second Stray dog self-assessment (2018) National Reports based on the outcomes of this self-assessment. This second self-assessment round allowed to measure the progress made by countries since 2015 and to identify remaining gaps and weak points to be

addressed to achieve full compliance with Chapter 7.7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code on stray dog population control by 2025.

According to countries responses, the stray dog population number observed over the last three years increased in 2 countries, was stable in 3 countries and decreased in 3 countries. However, the number of owned dogs is only estimated in 5 out of 9 countries, and only two countries declare to have the estimation of a stray dog in place. In 2018 most of countries already identified sources of stray dogs as dogs that have been abandoned by their owner follow by un-owned dogs that reproduce successfully. Only 4 out of 9 countries have established an Advisory Committee in charge of analysing and quantifying the problem, identifying the causes, obtaining public opinion on dogs and proposing the most effective approaches to use in the short and long term. The scarce availability of necessary resources for authorities in charge of stray dog control remains an issue, and only three countries declared having adequate resources at disposal.

According to the second self-assessment results, rabies is present in dogs and other domestic animals only in one country and reported in wildlife in three countries. All countries have in place a strategy for rabies prevention and elimination at national level and the majority of them have implemented an on-going system of disease surveillance, on-going early detection programme, regulatory measures for prevention and control of rabies well-structured and regular coordination between human and animal health services.

Increasing number of countries have established Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CP) at local level. Dog identification and registration is a legal obligation in all countries and registration and identification system in a centralised database are in place in almost all countries, with electronic transponders (microchips) as the main ID system. Monitoring and evaluation of dog population control programmes are in place in 6 countries, and 3 of them have been implementing monitoring and evaluation activities since the first self-assessment. The main weak points for National Control Strategy identified by countries include the lack of financial resources, scarce collaboration at national/local level and with stakeholders, the need for human resources and professional training.

In conclusion, there are still limited available information to have a clear picture of the stray dog situation (only half of the countries estimate numbers of owned dogs) and real burden caused by of stray dog in unknown. Most of the countries declare to have dog population control programmes at municipality level but no country has developed a National Control Strategy yet. Only few countries are conducting comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of stray dog population control programmes on a regular basis.

Session 3— Developing a national programme

RAWC Workshop – Dog population counting survey and setting indicators for dog population management (D. Kovač, T. Mikuš, E. Poposka, D. Terzievski, M. Weitzer, A. Hammond-Seaman)

The Regional Animal Welfare Centre (RAWC) for Balkan countries was established to bridge over the gap between academia and policymakers in the region and to help them in the implementation of regional and international best practices in the field of animal welfare. The RAWC have organised training of trainers based on ICAM dog population management indicators in March 2018 in Skopje Macedonia. The main goal of the training was to train a sufficient number of regional trainers which will in the future educate regional stakeholders. The ICAM Humane Dog Population Management Guidance⁵ introduces the importance of initial assessment of the size of the local stray dog population in order to develop suitable interventions at community level. The Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Dog Population Management Interventions⁶ provide support for developing a dedicated toolkit for tracking progress, learning and subsequently improving their impact through the use of measurable indicators. ICAM also developed an online Dog Population Management Impact

⁵ http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/Humane_Dog_Population_Management_Guidance_English.pdf

⁶ http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/ICAM_Are_we_making_a_difference_Updated_Nov2015.pdf

Assessment Tool⁷, with a series of short questions about stray dog situation and interventions, that allows to create a list of suitable indicators and methods of measurement. A detailed methodology for street and socio-demographic surveys was also presented. Participants were engaged in small working groups dealing with the identification of impact indicators and unbiased methodologies for dog number estimation, and the development of socio-demographic questions to be used in face-to-face interviews.

Country experience – “Creating evidence-based dog population management programme at local level: results of the first comprehensive baseline research in one municipality of Serbia” J. Ilic (ORCA, Serbia)

The Organisation for Respect and Care of Animals – ORCA, is a non-profit civil society organisation working on the improvement of policy, legislation and practice related to animal welfare, environmental protection and rural development in Serbia and the Balkan region, through research, education, advocacy and monitoring.

The ORCA model “FOR PEOPLE AND DOGS” proposed a new approach to the problem of abandoned dogs. The model is designed to provide information through research and to use them to develop dog population management programmes adapted to the specific local environment and in line with the OIE standards (TAHC, Chapter 7.7). The ORCA model is composed of three components: comprehensive research of the situation in the local community, participatory development of tailored dog population management programmes, and creation of the functional mechanism for implementation.

The ORCA model was implemented in the municipality of Bogatic in Serbia. The first step was setting the indicators and measures methods applying ICAM methodology. Five main types of research conducted include stray dog population survey, examination of the ‘culture of keeping dogs’, citizens’ attitudes toward dogs, research of environmental factors influencing the free roaming dog population (carrying capacity of the environment) and identification of key dog population management actors/ stakeholders. According to this study, the culture of keeping dogs is not very good: high reproductive activity, high mortality rate and short life, low sterilisation rate, the presence of owned dogs allowed to roam freely, the poor-quality fence, and a widespread public attitude to irresponsible dog ownership. In addition, research results suggested the presence of fear of dogs and reluctance to spay and neuter which was identified as a critical measure. Also, waste management was identified as a big problem as uncontrolled sources of food and shelter are available to stray dogs. Veterinarians were found to be uninterested in dog population management. The study also listed an insufficient level of activities in schools for raising awareness on responsible dog ownership. Based on the result of the survey following actions were proposed: sterilization of owned dogs, microchipping and rabies vaccination, public campaign concerning dog ownership, catch-neuter-release of free-roaming dogs, restricting access to landfills, raising capacities of veterinarians and education activities for children in schools. Next steps will be to support the Bogatic’s authorities to implement the measures proposed in this programme, share experiences and create more examples of good practice in different towns and municipalities, and to initiate the creation of a National Strategy for dog population management in Serbia.

Plenary lecture - Establishing a stray dog Advisory Group P. Dalla Villa (OIE Collaborating Center IZSAM)

According to the Chapter 7.7 of the TAHC, Veterinary Authorities are responsible for the implementation of animal health and animal welfare legislation, in coordination with other competent government agencies and institutions. Depending on the risk being managed and the objective/nature of the dog population control measures employed, other governmental agencies need to be involved in Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CP) such as public health agency, local government authorities or other agencies for public safety/security, and environment protection agencies. The local government authorities play the critical role as there are responsible for many services and programmes that relate public health, environmental health/hygiene and inspection/compliance activities. These authorities are also responsible for the development, implementation

and enforcement of legislation relating to dog ownership (e.g. registration, microchipping, vaccination, leash laws, abandonment) and the control of stray dogs (e.g. dog catching and shelters), and they should be supported with advice from a higher level (national or state/provincial) authority with specialised expertise regarding public health and animal health. In addition, they should ensure collaboration with all relevant partners and stockholders. The OIE standards also recommend establishing an Advisory Group, including veterinarians, experts in dog ecology, dog behaviour and zoonotic diseases, and representatives of relevant stakeholders (local authorities, human health services, environmental control services, NGOs and public). The objectives of this advisory group would be to analyse and quantify the problem, identify the causes, obtain public opinion on dogs and propose the most effective (efficient) approaches to be used in the short and long term. Such an advisory group can be established at a national level or regional/local level and linked to specific dog population control with a “variable geometry” approach. Several animal welfare councils and advisory bodies already exist and may serve as an example of best practices of communication, collaboration and involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The control of dog populations must be accompanied by changes in human behaviour to be effective. Enforcement of laws will not, on its own, result in lasting, voluntary changes in people’s behaviour, it needs to be supplemented by a range of non-regulatory approaches.

Plenary lecture - Presentation of the Template of the Veterinary Services National Plan, N. Leboucq / Stray dog ‘Task Force’

The result of first (2015) and second (2018) self-assessments carried out by Balkan countries, using the OIE Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool (SAM Tool), showed a low level of compliance as regards the analysis of the situation, the control measures in place and their monitoring. Generally, in the countries of the region, municipal authorities have legal responsibility for stray dog population control. The Veterinary Authorities play an essential role at the national level regarding developing a legislative framework, identification and registration system, vaccination programmes. However, the Veterinary Authority has a limited role in stray dog population control programmes managed local level. Therefore, the stray dog population control often remains generally local, small-scale, unharmonized and uncoordinated across the country.

The Veterinary Authority should play an important role by creating an accountable, sustainable and enabling environment for stray dog population control to be implemented by local governmental authorities/municipalities, with the necessary external coordination in place.

The stray dog Task Force established by the OIE Platform Secretariat developed a draft template for Veterinary Services national plan to support local governmental authorities in the development and implementation of Dog Population Control Programmes (DP-CP) in compliance with OIE the standards and for maintaining the monitoring and evaluation of their implementation. The proposed template for national plan structure includes following sections: (i) current situation analysis; (ii) results of the first and second self-assessments (iii) three to five year national VS’ Plan; (iv) monitoring and evaluation of impact and implementation; (v) estimated budget; (vi) review. The document proposes a structure of the plan by guiding the identification of potential objectives, activities and associated costs for the next 3 to 5 years. The activities proposed in the Veterinary Services national plan should only concern the Veterinary Authority, for the actions that are implemented by the local authorities, reference should be made to the ICAM Guidance on Humane Dog Population Management and Guide to Monitoring and Evaluating Dog Population Management Interventions. It is recommended that Balkan countries prepare their Veterinary Services’ national plan using the proposed template by the end of 2018. The stray dog Task Force of the OIE Platform may serve with technical advice and will assess developed programmes. It is essential to ensure political commitment and financial resources for proper implementation of the established plan.

Session 4 – Addressing specific country needs

Plenary lecture - [Topic 1: Identification and registration of dogs \(establishment of a national database\)](#) - Paolo Dalla Villa

Identification and registration of owned dogs is a core component of dog population control by the Competent Authorities. Identification and registration may be emphasised as part of responsible dog ownership and are often linked to animal health programmes, for example, mandatory rabies vaccination and traceability. Registration of animals in a centralised database can be used to support the enforcement of legislation and the reuniting of lost animals with owners. Animal traceability implies the identification of each animal by assigning a unique code number, the registration of this information in a database, and the record of the animal movements from birth to death.

Identification and registration systems:

- Promote responsible ownership and social responsibility towards mistreated/abandoned/stray animals
- Provide information about population size, structure and demography,
- Provide data on health and welfare status and history (i.e. vaccination, testing, spay/neuter, dangerous animals) at an individual level
- are essential tools for disease surveillance, control/eradication plans (disease outbreak and disaster management plans)
- Protect consumers by rights and can be linked to a licensing fee or liability insurance schemes.

In Italy, every region hosts its owned pets' registry, these registers are not compatible among them, and only a limited subset of information stored at the regional level is transmitted to the national level. Currently, IZSAM manages the regional registers of pets for the six regions. In 2016 Ministry of Health requested IZSAM Teramo to develop a new National Pets Register (S.I.N.A.AF) that allows the different existing application at regional level to exchange data without changing the pre-existing platform or user interface. The new national Identification and registration system will allow the access to many users' categories, each one with a specific role (e.g. national regional and local authorities and services, veterinarians, NGO, and citizens). In the future, the S.I.N.A.AF platform will also include pets digital e-prescription and medical records, national cancer registry with predictive machine learning algorithms (correlation between humans and animal disease), and alert notification system with "push messages" to be sent to dog owners and keepers (i.e. in the case of emergencies).

Plenary lecture - [Topic 2: Assessing Animal Welfare in shelters](#) - Paolo Dalla Villa

No-kill policies, widely adopted by many countries, including Italy, lead to the significant increase of long-term sheltering for stray dogs. Gaps in the management systems, high numbers of dogs entering the shelter and low adoption rates, result in a high number of dogs that is likely to spend most part or all their life in a confinement condition. Assessing dog welfare in shelters allows to improve the quality of life of housed dogs by defining appropriate management and environmental adequacy, improving coping and adaptation abilities, improving dog's adoptability, and improving the wellbeing of dog's shelter operators.

The Shelter Quality (SQ) protocol was developed by IZSAM Teramo with the aim of providing a valid, reliable and practical tool for assessing dog welfare in long-term shelters. This protocol was built around the four welfare principles (good feeding, good housing, good health and appropriate behaviour) described by the Welfare Quality project. The Shelter Quality protocol focus on animal-based measures to estimate the actual welfare state in terms of animal behaviour, health or physical condition. Since welfare is a condition of the animal, animal-based measures are likely to be the most direct reflection of their welfare state, partially independent of the shelter facilities and management procedures. Measures and procedures to assess the welfare of dog were identified and selected following expert opinion and through the study of scientific

literature in dog biology, health, welfare and behaviour. According to the SQ methodology, dog welfare is assessed at three levels: shelter level (general information, social housing, exercise routine, training/rehabilitation, surgeries/pain control, mortality), pen level (space allowance, sharp edges, water supply, bedding, panting/shivering/huddling, barking level, abnormal behaviour, evidence of pain, diarrhoea, coughing, emotional state) and individual animal level (reaction to human, body condition, cleanliness, skin condition, lameness). The scoring system of the SQ protocol allows to obtain objective information about the welfare level in long-term dog shelters through a numerical score and the critical points to be addressed in order to improve the animal's quality of life.

Plenary lecture - [Topic 3: Assessment of dog aggression- test on socialization of dogs \(with focus on stray dogs\)](#) - Brian Faulkner (Stray Animal Solutions, UK)

Temperament is animals natural or innate responses to its environment, its emotional responses. It is considered stable over time and is the foundation of personality. Temperament testing is designed to evaluate an individual dog's temperament through a series of tests measuring trait including stability, confidence, shyness, friendliness, aggressiveness, protectiveness, prey instincts, playfulness, defensive behaviour, and ability to distinguish between threatening and non-threatening situations. Major influence for dog behaviour is genetics (breed), environment and learning especially early learning. A prime factor that determines whether the dog is friendly or not toward humans is positive exposure to humans at the critical development stage (4 -10 week of age). Recent studies have been done in shelters to predict aggression in potential adoption candidates, and also to screen for specific behaviour problems such as separation anxiety and food or resource guarding. In its simplest form, a temperament test is testing a behavioural response to a specific stimulus at that time in that environment by that individual dog. The attempt is then made to correlate that specific response in that situation as a predictor of how that same dog may act or respond in a similar situation at another time, therefore predicting temperament and/or personality.

All current tests are developed towards assessment of pet or owned dogs and not for free-roaming dogs. Therefore, it is necessary to look at a range of existing tests and modify or adapt them for free-roaming dogs. Temperament testing of free-roaming dogs could provide a useful indicator of aggression. This is the only behaviour that would be of interest to municipalities when considering releasing dogs back to the streets as "community dogs".

15 June 2018

Field visit – Belgrade municipality shelter

The participants visited dog shelter of Belgrade municipality in Rakovica. The establishment in Rakovica represents a centre for neutering with dog shelter. This establishment contains preoperative and postoperative blocks, emergency department, operating room in which neutering is performed, laboratories, dog bath, storage room, separate room for food preparation, boxes for dogs and educational centre. According to the shelter procedures, captured animals are subject to a veterinary examination, neutering and post-operative treatment, permanent marking, vaccination, medical treatment and separation of those that are being housed. The educational centre has rooms for lectures and presentations and rooms in which dog trainers can show potential dog-adoptee and provide information on the degree of dogs' socialisation. The establishment is managed by the veterinary institution "Veterina Beograd" under the authority of the Department of Animal Hygiene, City Secretariat for Utilities and Housing Services of City of Belgrade.

Plenary lecture - Topic 4: Establishing a register of dog breeders and control of movement of dogs - Elke Vleugels (Animal Welfare Unit, Flemish Government, Belgium)

Belgium has 1.3 million total dog population. Over 160 000 new dogs are registered each year, almost 22 000 of them are imported from other countries, and 15 000 (9,3 %) of dogs end up in shelters each year. Legislative measures to limit numbers of dogs and cats in shelters include ban on sale of dogs and cats on markets, mandatory licence for breeders and traders, ban on publicity for dogs and cats, mandatory identification and registration of all dogs, European Passport for all dogs, ban on sale of dogs and cats in pet shops and obligatory spay/neuter and identification/registration cats. In Belgium, the control of international movement of dogs is the responsibility of the federal government and dog identification and registration (DOGID) is the responsibility of the regional government. To date, dog breeders are licenced and categorised in four types: private persons (less than 3 litters per year) licence not required, hobby breeders (no more than 10 litters per year), professional breeders (more than 10 litters per year) and breeder-trader (no less than 10 litters per year and sells litter from other (foreign) breeders. The dog breeding licence requirement include a contract with a veterinarian, inspection of housing (minimum standards) and inspection of administration (registers of inventory, breeding register, warranty certificate, a list with questions appropriate ownership). Official control of dog breeders is carried out by Animal welfare inspection Service with regular unannounced inspections and inspections after complaints. The sanctions for noncompliance include financial fines, license withdrawal and confiscation of the animals. In addition to all legal tools, raising awareness and education campaigns on responsible dog ownership are organised by the regional government. As a result of all control measures, the number of homeless dogs is decreasing but the number of homeless cats is still not decreasing. Currently, in Belgium, obligatory identification and registration, obligatory spaying/neuter, an obligatory neuter programme for local authorities for cats are implemented supported by raising public awareness campaign. Also, legislation on the registration of dog breeders is under revision in order to optimise animal welfare with obligatory group housing, mandatory outdoor space, socialisation and lifting ban on crossbreeding.

Session 5 — Implementation and evaluation of the OIE Campaign

Survey - The implementation of the OIE communication campaign

As part of OIE Regional stray dog Roadmap for Balkans activities the OIE developed a communication campaign ('Be His Hero') with the objective to significantly limit dog abandonment on the streets, as this was identified as the main source of stray dogs in the sub-region. The campaign package included a set of products such as posters, a leaflet on good dog ownership, a questionnaire for responsible dog acquisition, a press release, a game book for children and a guide for teachers to animate half-a-day on good dog ownership accompanied guiding booklet 'How to run a successful Campaign'. With financial support provided by the RAWC, the OIE provided eight countries with set of printed materials to be distributed during campaign. The survey conducted during workshop aimed to gain general overview of achievements, challenges and feedback from countries on preparing, deploying and evaluating their respective national campaign. The OIE Platform secretariat will follow in systematic and more detailed to collected information to assess implantation the OIE Campaign.

Plenary discussion - The OIE communication campaign - list of relevant indicators

Although the OIE communication campaign was initially time-limited, one of the expected long-term outcomes is that, by raising awareness changing people behaviour toward abandonment of dogs. The campaign and its tools can also be repeatedly used, and several countries reported using a selected element of the campaigns on a regular basis. The campaign evaluation phase is an essential step in assessing what did and did not work and determining whether the campaign's objectives were met. The in the campaign booklet 'How to run a successful Campaign' list of potential indicators' for evaluation of the campaign. For the assessment of the overall objective, a good indicator might be a per-cent decrease in the number of abandoned dogs. For the specific

objective proposed list of indicators such as, e.g. number of bites by stray dogs, number of car accidents due to stray dogs, amount of compensation claims for issues with stray, increase in the number of vaccinations or identified and registered dogs, increase in the number of dogs sterilised etc. To evaluate the organisation and the implementation of the OIE communication campaign indicators may include several tools to be used, number of partners involved, or human and financial resources allocated to the campaign. Countries were requested to define a set of indicators at the start of the campaign, to ensure collection of necessary information for campaign evaluation. The OIE will also conduct a post-campaign evaluation at the regional level, which will be based on national evaluations.

Session 6 — Closing session

During the closing session participants completed the satisfaction survey in form of interactive quiz. Dr N. Leboucq recalled the agreed next steps and expressed thanks for all participants and speakers for their engagement during workshop, acknowledged the main financial contribution of the European Union, Switzerland and RSPCA and thanked Serbia for hosting the event.

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