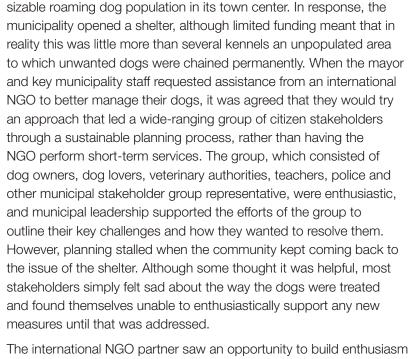
Case Study 11

Example of community engagement and veterinary professional support in Eastern Europe



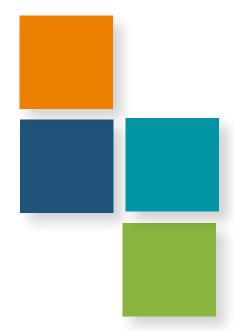
Summary:

Training and mentoring of a pivotal veterinary professional allowed a community led DPM intervention to progress and flourish.



A small city in Eastern Europe was having challenges with a

The international NGO partner saw an opportunity to build enthusiasm in the community by taking positive action. They agreed to help rehome the shelter dogs, on the provision that the community never undertake this type of sheltering again, that no new dogs were to enter the shelter, and that the municipal vet provide papers and vaccinations to facilitate international rehoming as national rehoming was unrealistic for the number of dogs involved. This was documented in a written agreement, after which the municipal vet, on which all action hinged, made no progress. After nearly a year of stalled progress and losing community momentum, the international NGO agreed to a modified process, where they would help the vet to assess and vaccinate the dogs. In doing so, they came to realize that the vet had little or no formal training with dogs, and was afraid of them. Through patient but respectful mentoring, the vet, who initially stood as a barrier to the process, became an ally and a champion.





Eventually, all of the dogs were removed and rehomed, with the NGO ensuring that the local vet, the volunteer team, and the Mayor received most of the credit.

This show of support for the community's wishes, as well as respect and mentoring in critical skills, left the community more capable and confident about pursuing their dog management goals. Progress on the remainder of their plan proceeded quickly. An active volunteer team, supported by the mayor and the municipal veterinary office, continues to care for, foster, rehome and advocate for the humane treatment of dogs in their city.

