

Humane Dog & Cat Population Management 4th International Conference - Virtual 2023 - DAY 3			
#	Question	Answer	Answer Name
1	<p>Hello, while active implementation of sterilization programme and working with general society: educating people, improving understanding of the reasons of the problem of dog homelessness, educating them about importance of SNRV the biggest obstacle is that the whole topic is often being reduced by general society and mass media to choice humans welfare VS street animals welfare.</p> <p>People who support killing of street animals claim that sterilization does not prevent dogs from aggression towards citizens. When, for example, stray dogs protect area where they live. Can someone advice from your own experience how did you deal with this subject during debates or recommend some researches or materials available.</p>	<p>There is a publication by Reece et al that showed a decline in dog bites with CNVR <a href="https://bvajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1136/vr.101079">https://bvajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1136/vr.101079</a></p>	Elly Hiby
2	<p>Street dogs are a menace, that is for sure. However killing the dogs is not the solution to the menace. I tend to feel that this approach is used due to lack of information by the members of the communities and authorities. Education would be a good starting point. May be also addressing the reasons as to why the street dogs exist.</p>	<p>On Thursday we will be talking about community engagement in the conference - some of our presenters will be sharing how they have done work like this.</p>	Elly Hiby
3	<p>In Europe hardly rabies, many animal welfare laws are in place. Enough veterinarians, not real poverty. Still, millions of stray dogs and cats suffer in the streets or in municipal shelters. I&amp;R also in place. I just can't get my head around it anymore. Where do we go from here?</p>	<p>I hope you will enjoy Silja's presentation today - she will describe a preventative approach that is working in Greece. Promoting and enforcing responsible owner behaviour is core.</p>	Elly Hiby
4	<p>We have difficulties to convince people that culling dogs is not the best way to fight against rabies. Is there any "method" to sensitize people in this area please?</p>	<p>Both WOA's chapter 7.7 Terrestrial Code and WHO's expert consultation on rabies TRS 1012 (2018) have clear statements against culling for rabies control - described as 'ineffective' - pull out and share these expert positions.</p> <p>GARC also has a clear statement for this purpose. In addition, there are free online courses that we provide (in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese) that address the misconception about indiscriminate culling being an effective means to eliminate rabies. <a href="https://rabiesalliance.org/tools/education-tools/gep/cc">https://rabiesalliance.org/tools/education-tools/gep/cc</a></p>	Elly Hiby Terence Scott
5	<p>I can see, there is a lot of emphasis on dogs only, are cats neglected from the population management? considering that they can reproduce more often than dogs and also their litter size is considerably big.</p>	<p>ICAM cares about, and works on, cat population management as well - we are proud to have ICatCare as a member. But Pankaj is presenting on the link between SDGs and dogs at the moment because that is where the evidence is strongest. Please enjoy the 2 cat specific presentations later today.</p>	Elly Hiby
6	<p>I'm interested to know WOA's position on DPM. In the Pacific, they are exclusively interested in livestock and food security. Perhaps this is because the Pacific is considered "rabies free"? If WOA representatives are attending this conference I would be interested to receive their response</p>	<p>This is WOA's standard on DPM <a href="https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&amp;L=1&amp;htmlfile=chapitre_aw_stray_dog.htm">https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&amp;L=1&amp;htmlfile=chapitre_aw_stray_dog.htm</a></p>	Elly Hiby

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7	<p>The issue of stray animals, particularly dogs and cats, is indeed a complex and challenging problem in many parts of the world, including Europe. While Europe generally has stricter animal welfare laws and better access to veterinary care compared to some other regions, the presence of stray animals indicates that there are still underlying factors contributing to the issue. These factors can vary across countries and regions but may include abandonment, irresponsible pet ownership, lack of education about responsible pet care, and inadequate resources for animal control and sheltering.</p> <p>To address this problem and determine where to go from here, it requires a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders, including governments, communities, animal welfare organizations, and individuals. Here are some potential steps that can be taken:</p> <p>Strengthen and enforce animal welfare laws: Continuously review and improve existing laws related to animal welfare, with a focus on preventing abandonment, promoting</p>	<p>This preventative approach is shared by ICAM, you can see it described in our DPM courses <a href="https://www.icam-coalition.org/tool/dpm-elearning-courses/">https://www.icam-coalition.org/tool/dpm-elearning-courses/</a></p>	Elly Hiby
8	<p>Nowadays veterinary care has become extremely expensive in Western Europe due to large companies buying vet practices. How will this develop from now on? Adoption rates drop, people avoid vet care for their animals and dumping of sick animals increases. How does ICAM look at this development?</p>	<p>Thank you for describing this trend - this is not something we have discussed as a coalition. WSAVA is an ICAM member and we could explore this from their perspective too. Thank you for the suggestion.</p>	Elly Hiby
10	<p>I just wonder why no one is talking about open admission shelters system success across Europe and America from the 70s all the way till early 2000s? ( shelters with euthanasia that reduced over time ) . The actual way that we got to a situation where there is a manageable amount of animals so animal activists can the capacity to work on other vital things like setting up neutering programs for owned dogs , education, legislation ?</p> <p>Why did Madrid or Chicago not do dog cnvr 30-40y ago?</p>	<p>Countries have choices to make - they can follow that path, and can see the costs it will involve - but CNVR is an alternative to shelters that is available now and was not 30-40 years ago.</p>	Elly Hiby
11		<p>The open admission shelter system, also known as "no-kill" or "limited euthanasia" shelters, has indeed been successful in reducing euthanasia rates in some regions. These shelters prioritize finding homes for all adoptable animals and only consider euthanasia as a last resort for severely ill or aggressive animals. However, it is important to note that the success of this model can vary depending on various factors, including cultural attitudes towards animals, funding availability, and community support. To address your question about why some cities like Madrid or Chicago did not implement comprehensive dog neutering programs several decades ago, there could be several reasons: Cultural and societal attitudes: Attitudes towards animals, pet ownership, and animal welfare can vary across different regions and countries. In some places, the importance of animal welfare and responsible pet ownership may not have been widely recognized or prioritized until more recently. As societal awareness and values evolve,</p>	Mohammed Khamis

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12	fabulous presentation! this was one of my goals for 2023, and I will read ICAM's DPM and SDGs report however, don't you think SDG 16 - especially justice and strong institutions, SDG 17, SDG 6, SDG 13 and SDG 9 - especially innovation and infrastructure can be addressed also?	Absolutely. Thank you for these suggestions. We will certainly look into these and please do share any resources you might have on this front.	Pankaj KC
13	We could sensitize people with data/research findings where sterilisation has been demonstrated to have a positive impact on stray population. To encourage data driven intervention/sensitisations/education/more evidence based interventions, it will be helpful for us to start thinking about how the animal welfare sector can support or work with the government to have census for stray animals. lack of data has been a major challenge to evidence base interventions.	ICAM shares your position - an evidence base and ongoing monitoring is essential - please see our guide for M&E and webinar on using Talea for surveying dogs and cats on our website <a href="http://www.icam-coalition.org">www.icam-coalition.org</a>	Elly Hiby
14	Can we perhaps introduce the concerns of Members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child about governments which violently manage homeless animal populations. <a href="https://animoto.com/play/eP6pbzbpSPx8uczHr7a6Cg">https://animoto.com/play/eP6pbzbpSPx8uczHr7a6Cg</a> We can now assert that the culling of homeless animals before major sporting events is now anathematic to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.	Important point Malcolm. I will need to look into different enforcement mechanisms/instruments within the EU that allows for the scope to hold member states accountable. But certainly worth raising this issues both at the member state level and institutions within the EU. Are you engaging with Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals? They have intergroup on cats and dogs welfare. May be worth engaging with them.	Pankaj KC
15	Addressing the issue of mass culling of dogs in host countries ahead of major sporting events requires a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders. Here are some steps that can be taken to engage organizations and discourage this practice:  Raise awareness: Create awareness about the issue of mass culling of dogs by highlighting its ethical concerns, animal welfare implications, and the negative impact on the host country's image. Utilize various communication channels, including social media, press releases, and campaigns, to reach a broader audience and garner support.  Engage international sports organizations: Reach out to international sports organizations like FIFA and F1, emphasizing the importance of animal welfare and the need to prevent mass culling as a prerequisite for hosting events. Seek their support in condemning this practice and promoting humane alternatives.  Collaborate with animal welfare organizations: Partner with local and international animal welfare organizations to amplify		

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16	Thanks Elly. I'm familiar with WOAHS standard but in the Pacific, WOAHS and DPM is non-existent. Very few Pacific island nations can afford the WOAHS joining or annual membership fee. Pacific Island nations don't have resources to meet WOAHS surveillance and reporting requirements. Few Pacific Island nations have budget to appoint an OV, and private vet practices aren't commercially viable. Without an OV or private DVM, these countries cannot source animal health meds or vaccines - and this makes it difficult to attract volunteer vets. Saipan, Federated States of Micronesia, The Republic of Marshall Islands, The Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru are all in this situation. Swine, poultry, cattle are a different story.. WOAHS regularly hosts training for livestock technicians and chiefs of agriculture.	Perhaps vets in Pacific Islands could collaborate on creating a call for support which lists their priority subjects and is proposed to the WOAHS office of Asia Pacific?	Elly Hiby
17	mass euthanasia is known not to be a sustainable solution, also the welfare issues involved around it, this lead to the banning of most of the chemicals used for baiting, in particular strychnine.  other alternatives of DPM are rather expensive.  what would be the "best" solution especially in low income countries?	Hi, thank you for your great question. I guess it always depends on the local situation - this is why assessing the local situation is so important and then design intervention for the specific context.	Manuela Rowlings
18	Even nowadays Holland, UK and many countries will put a healthy dog down that's hard to rehome instead of releasing them on to the street. The option of cnvr is available now and can be chose as opposed to killing. Why then not release as opposed to put down?	This is an excellent question. Countries, indeed communities within countries, have to make this decision. ICAM does not support culling at a population level, but neither do we have a single euthanasia policy, because we recognise this must be decision taken for an individual animal and within the specific context. On our website there is guide for developing a euthanasia policy with an animal welfare basis.	Elly Hiby
19	how did you determine the prices of sterilisations with the vets?	Hi, please note that due to Romanian legislation a county is not able to spend fun on CNVR , so the sterilisations are provided by local NGOs and in turn funded (at least partially) by international AW orgs.	Manuela Rowlings
20	Dear Anita and Manuela, very nice presentation! Some questions 1/ do you work together with Romanian veterinarians or the Romanian veterinary association to neuter the dogs? 2/ are most dogs on your adoption platform adopted in Romania or abroad? 3/ Do you assess character before rehoming?	Hi, yes, all projects are run with veterinarians in the community and the goal is always to place the dogs in loving homes in the same communities or at least in the same country.	Manuela Rowlings
21	Registered animal welfare NGOs have attempted to engage with WOAHS but they've advised that they will only work bilaterally, with Governments (signatories to WOAHS)	A collaboratative request from vets, including government vets, not NGOs? WOAHS answers to vet authorities.	Elly Hiby
22	I am curious to know how you measured reduction in abandonment.	By census.	Silja Schiller-Moumtzidis
23	hello all, coming from Lebanon where the problem of strays (as they call it) is increasing and the only home kept dogs are pedigree dogs. People started dumping theor dogs and cats 10x more than before with a devastating economic collapse along with the pandemic.	Same everywhere around the world. We believe the only solution is mandatory microchipping and registering and DNA (Greece)	Silja Schiller-Moumtzidis

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24	Is there someone who is willing to come to Albania and help us to do an Event and to have inviting Vets and Ngo and maybe Government People together with <a href="http://www.jetatierundmesnch.ch">www.jetatierundmesnch.ch</a> wich is our NGO and <a href="http://www.animalneedmealbania.com">www.animalneedmealbania.com</a> who are our Friends? I appreccate every answer or help. Thank you	Hi jenny, I am German, but in writing I am faster in English :-)) -- We are very interested in rolling out in about 2-3 years time. But for now, we don;t have the resources to start in other countries. We relaly need to focus on getting the number of strays down in Greece and have a proof concept that can then be rolled out to other countries. What I can offer, we can have a chat and I can walk you through what we did and how, if you'd like to copy some of what we tried.	Silja Schiller-Moumtzidis
25	fabulous getting them aboard to train the officials that's another challenge Aruba faces: one example - NGOs specialized in trapping do not want to cooperate in educating the authority in humane trapping techniques the government does not have enough funds to send all these oficals abroad for such training how can we try to convince them?	We collected data on what are the top five pain points municipalities faced back in 2017. Stray dogs was among those 5 top problems to solve. That is how we aproached our first municipality and offered to solve their problem through a systematic solution.	Silja Schiller-Moumtzidis
26	Silija thank you, can you please say what is your approximate annual spend / budget of your team / work to achieve this great results ?	The Academy is funded by Battersea. The academy is free for municipalities to attend and the professors provide their time free of charge for us.	Silja Schiller-Moumtzidis
27	If you could speak explain the methodology used to measure abandonment, that will be helpful.	Census. In Aegina, the local AW carried out a count in 2017 when we started and communicated that to us. The municipality and local volunteers carried out another count in 2021. Now, we are partnering with a start-up that speciliazes on Census studies. But nationwide census studies are very difficult.	Silja Schiller-Moumtzidis
28	Thank you Silja for the wonderful presentation. Could you please elaborate the DNA testing a bit? Is the test being done randomly amongst caught free roaming dogs, and Im guessing the municipality covers the cost unless the owner is caught guilty in which case the fine pays for the servise?	The new legislation 4830/2021 mandated owners to provide a DNA sample of their pet with the local vet. The sample is then stored in a central database and matched to the microchip number of the pet. The central database is managed by Professor Thanos who also ran the covid response in Greece. Once that lab is set up (in due course), we must ensure that every owned dog and cat is microchipped and registered. The new law requires vets to answer whether an owned dog or cat is neutered. If not, the database will issue an automatic message to the owner to provide DNA. If that DNA is not provided there are fines. Once DNA is fully established, you can trace an abandoned puppy/ kitten back to the owner. Abandonment is now a felony, nit a misdemeanor anymore. So the owner can get a fine.	Silja Schiller-Moumtzidis
29	is the dog behavioural test based on a international protocols? if so could you name it. thanks	Thanks. It is a test that we built. It will be published hopefully soon	Liat Morgan
30	There is also a large municipal TNR program for cats in Israel. Is there overlap between the dog and cat management programs? In what way are are they integrated or unique?	Thanks Julie, it is currently very since it is illegal for dogs to free-roam, therefore TNR for dogs are not an option at the moment. The idea is to trap and find a home rather than returning to the street	Liat Morgan
31	what about wildlife protectionits expeccially wild birds?	Indeed many zoologists and ecologists are concerned about cats' impact on wild birds. We also heard from some members of public regarding this, but interestingly enough, hardly any wildlife or environmental activists reached out to us. Yet another example of not all stakeholders being heard or represented correctly	Liran Plitman
32	can you describe what other factors methods are alternatives or can work together with TNR? Especially in a community that are not keen for the idea of adopting stray cats/dogs	We believe TNR has to be accompanied by adoption (along with education on responsible ownership), euthanasia of sick/injured cats that cannot be returned to the street or adopted, alongiside vaccination and ongoing veterinary care, responsible communal feeding, waste management and communication with caretakers	Liran Plitman

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33	Hi all, thanks for sharing. I have a question for the speakers (or Elly) regarding free-roaming cat sterilisation. Recently there was a paper published on using AMH gene therapy that seems to show some promise as a long term contraception. Is this something you would consider as a means of population control? Maybe even a good alternative to the other contraceptive methods including surgical sterilisation?	Great question! You can hear a bit more about this on Friday - Val Benka will be giving an update on non-surgical fertility control which will include this. Please note, that this product is still in research phase, we are 5+ years away from market. But I have hope that this will become an alternative to surgery, along with other tools. Just <a href="http://www.acc-d.org">www.acc-d.org</a> for more information about non-surgical options for dogs and cats.	Elly Hiby
34	What do you think about the argument that we are taking away the right/natural instinct of cats to mate? Are we violating their welfare?	Personally I would argue that the overpopulation and street living is a greater risk to the cats' welfare and therefore neutering them is the best approach to improve their welfare. But this is an interesting argumant - it didn't come up much during the public consultation, not even by animal rights activists (who I assumed would be more bothered by that)	Liran Plitman
35	Won't neutering of all cats result in extinction of cats?	In reality we can never achieve neutering 100% of the cat population, due to the high costs, cats that cannot be trapped, owned cats which are intact and the cats' amazing ability to procreate and compensation mechanisms working against TNR programs. so as of now that is not really a concern	Liran Plitman