

Humane Dog & Cat Population Management 4th International Conference - Virtual 2023 - DAY 4			
#	Question	Answer	Answer Name
1	Sessions are not balanced about cats and dogs. Most of the topics are focused only on DOGS. Please balance it!	<p>Thanks for your feedback, Omer. The first session is about both dogs and cats (in some of our field programs we cover close to a 50-50 ratio). Hope this helps!</p> <p>Hi Omer. Nearly all these presentations are the result of a competitive submitted abstract process (only a few are invited). So we are also limited by what is submitted. We would welcome more cat presentations and did was we could to reach a more equitable species ratio. But we have to reflect the field and what was submitted. There were 2 cat specific presentations yesterday - please check the conference webpage if you want to watch them</p> <p><a href="https://www.icam-coalition.org/conferences/international-conference-dog-cat-population-management-2023/">https://www.icam-coalition.org/conferences/international-conference-dog-cat-population-management-2023/</a></p>	Alexandra Rothlisberger Elly Hiby
2	How do you teach children about animal sentience	You start from their perspective - and ask them to interpret what they think animals need. You focus on the 5 domains and animal outcomes. Learning at this stage is necessarily anthropomorphic, but that's OK.	Ruth De Vere
3	Does spaying/neutering violate the need for cats and dogs to perform their natural behavior (like mating)? Are we against their welfare if we sterilize them?	Preventing highly motivated natural behaviours can lead to poor welfare. But sterilisation removes the motivation for breeding, so animals are not left frustrated by not being able to engage in breeding. Hence no welfare concern to sterilisation, if done well - i.e. pain relief, aseptic technique, post-op care.	Elly Hiby
4	Thanks Alexandra for the presentation. is the study of Ovalle, Chile available?	Hi, happy to share it with you. Please email me	Alexandra Rothlisberger
5	How do you measure improved system equality?	By making sure that communities that suffer from inequality have access to veterinary care to their animals. This helps ensure their animals are healthy, but also helps improve and protect the health of people that coexist with dogs and cats.	Alexandra Rothlisberger
6	Thank you alex for the presentation. please do you operate in Africa? I wish to collabirate with your organization to work in Ghana	We're currently launching our first program in South Africa. Stay tuned! And please feel free to visit our website to find additional resources that may help you with your program	Alexandra Rothlisberger
7	What is the estimated financial cost of community engagement?	Community engagement can be very effective, even when done by one individual only. As long as that individual knows about animals welfare, has the correct information and the ability to communitate that information well to animal guardians, the community will start to respond to you and your program. Make sure that person you chose to do community engagement is not only very knowledgeable on dog/cat health care needs, but also be charismatic, a good communicator, and non-judgemental.	Alexandra Rothlisberger
8	<p>Some communities see spay/neuter as being against the animal welfare as the animals will not be able to express their natural behaviour to reproduce. Also, removal of the ovaries in young females affect their growth as the hormones from the ovaries are very important for the animal to mature.</p> <p>what is the possibility of performing spays while maintaiing the ovaries but removal of the ovaries?</p>	Hi, there is some evidence that removing the ovaries from young animals does have some physiological effect on things like closure of bone growth plates, and work is ongoing to understand more of that, especially breed related differences -such as in lareg breed dogs. Carrying out the removal of the uterus and cervix but leaving the ovaries behind can be a more complex surgical procedure and you still have the challenge of the animals being motivated to perform breeding behaviours which, although some owners may prefer that, may have a more negative impact on the wider public, eg if free roaming male dogs are chasing females. It is a balance - including between wanting to "preserve" individual dog or cat "natural" behaviours and reducing or removing behaviours that then may lead to people impacting negatively on dogs and cats.	Karen Reed

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9	To all speakers: Are you aware that in most Western European countries veterinary care has become only for the richer people among us? The real rich people. Veterinary clinics are bought by Swedish companies (Evidensia, Anicura, CVS) with shareholders. Simple procedures cost a fortune now. Many dogs and cats in the Netherlands have huge dental problems and pyometra's etcetera. Animals and people suffer immensely because veterinary care is too expensive for most people who love their pets, not only the poor people living on benefits. People postpone euthanasia of their animals because they can't afford it. Animals are being surrendered to shelters or dumped because the owners can't afford the veterinary care anymore. Insurance is only for the young animals, not for the older	Thanks for a great question Nathalie. ICAM is focused on resource limited communities, so this is not an issue we have discussed within the coalition. However, some of ICAM's members may have looked at this more closely - some member representatives are here today - perhaps share this question in the chat so that all attendees can reply?  I don't have the answer Nathalie but from Dogs Trust in the UK perspective, the cost of living crisis affecting pet owners ability to care for their pets (vet care costs but also the cost of food and dog care such as dog walkers) is something that we very concerned about and do lobby government (eg to reduce VAT on pet food) and do continue to keep communications open with the vet profession on the options to provide quality affordable care. It is an ongoing discussion in many vet fora also.	Elly Hiby  Karen Reed
10	How do you reverse social norm when the social norm is to neglect/harm animals?	HSI's experience is that by approaching a community with veterinary services and with community engagement, you begin to notice a change in animal welfare and human behavior. For this change to happen, you do need to commit to work in the community for 3-5 years.	Alexandra Rothlisberger
11	How do you reverse social norm when the social norm is to neglect/harm animals?	There are two strands here: the first is the long term generational change which starts with educating children about the 5 domains and animal needs. This provides (in the very long term) a different ethical framework which their system 1 will rely on as it searches for decisions as they grow into adulthood. But we can't wait for that if animals are suffering now, so we need to speak to representatives of the group to find out about the behaviour (not necessarily the attitude - we're not looking to change hearts and minds straight away). Then we apply tactics to encourage a different action. The more those actions take place, the more you can begin to share stories and eventually describe it as a shift in societal behaviour. Even if the behaviour is carried out by a minority, but you have seen a significant positive shift over a period of time, you can still promote this social shift and that in effect is social norming.	Ruth De Vere
12	Is this the basics for neuromarketing?	Thanks for your question. The principles are very closely related yes. Neuromarketing is predominantly used by large corporations and retailers (that can afford the research), and the findings are usually applied to effective advertising or product placement (choice architecture).	Ruth De Vere
13	Can cultures affect behaviours changing?	Thanks for your question. Cultures will undoubtedly affect the behaviours you witness, and what constitutes behavioural 'norms'. But we're all human and the same principles to changing behaviour apply to all of us. We need to understand the audience, their perspectives, what they perceive the barriers to be, and then get to work removing the barriers. Sometimes it's knowledge, but often it isn't.	Ruth De Vere
14	System two thinking is being seriously compromised by social media	Interesting statement and something I will ponder - I wonder if it is in fact system 1 that is the biggest victim precisely because of the social norming effect of social media, and the illusion of choice that the algorithms provide you with, reducing your ability to access unbiased information.	Ruth De Vere

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15	Sometimes the NGOs wanting to point out only the bad management in the very old past-past-past by previous governments who have a much bigger audience than a new government doing their best trying to implement good DPM according to suggestions given by ICAM and WOAH and does not have the same big audience is frustrating. do you have any suggestions Ruth?	<p>This is a broad query and I'm not sure I am certain of the specific question. Are you asking how to change the behaviour of the NGOs criticising the government? If that's what you're asking - collaboration (or at least giving each side a platform to be heard) is always the answer. Speaking to both sides (and letting them hear from each other), and potentially working towards joint campaigns or press releases might be a first step. These problems are so complex that none of them can be solved by a government or an NGO in isolation, so coalitions and collaboration can build understanding and eventually trust, and also allow tasks to be shared amongst those most able to deliver. Trust is usually lacking at the early stages of such relationship building, so mediation and respect is needed.</p> <p>It's also true that government officials and policy makers are people too, so the same principles apply. If the NGO can define the behaviours they want to see in their policymakers (not the attitudes, remember, the actual actions), then they need to engage with them to explore the barriers to implementation. We all get defensive when we're criticised and it is the least effective mechanism for behaviour change. These principles apply to advocacy campaigning in all its forms.</p>	Ruth De Vere
16	"70% sterilization is not sufficient" which percentage is better? please recommend % females VS males	By domesticating community dogs / fostering collective adoption, 100% is a realistic target and has been achieved in several areas where the Stray Buddy program has active groups. Inflow is merely from abandoned pets and dogs on adjacent roads/areas coming in. If females are only sterilised and males not, we see an unhealthy disbalance in the population that stirs up agitation between dogs and hence reconfirms the "nuisance/menace" image of dogs. The males become restless, especially in heat seasons with dog fights occurring more often. They tend to calm down after neutering, which is helpful in scenarios where residents are fearful or dislike dogs. Also, one male can impregnate many females, so it is also effective to neuter males (and less invasive).	Annelieke Laninga (Anna)
17	The Stray Buddy Program seems to think of the issue of stray dogs from the point of view of humans and not the dog. How do you address the issue of dog deaths and injuries from accidents with vehicles? In rural areas it is less of a problem but in cities where there are lots of vehicles, it is almost impossible to avoid dogs being hit by cars, trucks etc. What do you think the solution is?	Hi Julie, we try to avoid being labeled as being "animal activists" because that would place us out of dialogue with RWAs, who are primarily responsible for resident welfare. Hence the emphasis on how humane community dog management can benefit humans. About 80-90% of the group members are however caregivers/feeders (and activists), who collectively coordinate rescue and medical care. All Creatures Great and Small has a sanctuary with about 800 animals and a fully equipped hospital and medical team. Virtual info sessions to capacitate caregivers to give first aid to dogs are organised with a professional vet. We also make use of other NGO facilities and private vets who provide medical care against a reduced cost. The program is self-financed and expenses are generally shared through a kitty-model. But indeed, better care could be given if we had a mobile van with a catching/medical team, which is on my wish-list. Sadly there are still dogs who fall between the cracks right now...	Annelieke Laninga (Anna)

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18	Hey Ruth. Thanks for responding to my comment on social media and impact on system 2 thinking! It probably impacts both! I'm a psychodynamic psychotherapist and animal lover/activist. I think that concentration and processing is impacted by social media due to the immediacy of the thing in itself. It, social media, is very demanding and encourages a fast response at the expense of really thinking things through, which takes time and consideration	I completely agree. It's also pretty volatile because the algorithms are designed to take advantage of these principles - that these big corporations understand so well. They know how, with every click and choice made by us, we get further and further into echo chambers, and rabbit holes, and we're oblivious to the curated nature of what we're seeing. Therefore we fall for the myth that everyone else agrees with us. We've never seen a more polarised society than we see now, thanks to the power of social media and big data! but I digress!!	Ruth De Vere
19	Thank you again for an amazing presentation Ruth. I was wondering if you have an example of the methods described in your presentation on a specific goal, namely discouraging abandonment. Would you further divide this problem into smaller ones, or is it possible to use a method such as NUDGE on the broad problem? I mean like a short list of methods to affect this problem.	Thanks for your kind comment, I'm glad you enjoyed it. I would absolutely break it down into smaller issues - and certainly different 'perpetrators'. You may not know this level of detail yet, so the first task is to speak to people (anonymously if necessary) to find the drivers of abandonment, and those most at risk of abandoning. From that you determine how best to communicate with each audience type, and where to reach them. A nudge is only helpful if you can pinpoint when decisions are being made for example, some people might do a google search on 'what to do when I can't afford to keep my dog', so a nudge would be a paid for Google ad that intervenes and encourages people to check out your resources for help and preventative routes. Another example of a nudge was mentioned in Silja's presentation yesterday where there is a huge poster at the harbour on Aegina reminding people that abandoning is illegal. This issue is complex so is likely to need a mix of tactics, not just nudges.	Ruth De Vere
20	Very interesting presentation. congratulate to both presenter. It would be helpful if we get a strategy around human behaviour change that you have. May I know how we access this strategy.	Thanks for your question. Each human behaviour change strategy would be unique to each audience, so there is no generic strategy I could point you to. However, check out the references at the end of my presentation for some resources that can really help you on your journey. The first task is to identify the behaviour you want to see, then speak to the people acting in that way to find out what they're thinking, when and why they're doing it and why they don't do the action you'd like them to. Then you review the guides to behaviour change tactics referenced at the end of my presentation, and give it a go.	Ruth De Vere
21	'@Ruth if an NGO is to start a school education program to teach children how to care, respect and be safe around dogs, which age group should we start the program with (unfortunately we don't have funds or resources to teach all grades, so we will have to run a small pilot program)	Thanks for your question. You have to be really sure that educating children is the best use of your resources. It's really important in order to change the ethical frameworks relied on by system 1, so by all means go ahead, but if you have a behaviour you need to change now and limited resources, focus your energies on that audience. Also, if you are building an education programme for children, make sure it is focused on a specific behaviour young people usually carry out, that you'd like to change. (e.g. behave cruelly, abandon, frequently get bitten) and then build your education programme around those specific (and measurable) goals. Take it from me - an education programme that seeks to generally teach care and compassion is impossible to measure and is rarely invested in for long enough to result in measurable change. If you are focusing on safety around dogs, then I'm guessing you have bites, so aim the programme at the age range (or just before the age bracket) most at risk of being bitten.	Ruth De Vere

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22	Hey Ruth. I don't think it's a digression! I am working very closely with animal rights advocates in a country that has launched a propaganda attack on the dogs of the streets to justify a very violent cull. This attack takes place in many forms including main steam and social media.	That's an extraordinary challenge, and I would assume that the instant reaction would be to educate and to explain why the propaganda is unjustified and explain why the street dogs are deserving of care....but it's a fight for system 1's attention, not persuasion in system 2.	Ruth De Vere