



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

ICAM Virtual International Conference 2024

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ICAM 5th International Conference 2024

HUMANE DOG & CAT POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Agenda

Please click on the presenter(s) name to link to abstract.

Day 1

Evolving Population Management

17 June, 11:00 – 13:00 GMT/UTC

[Amit Chaudhari & Keren Nazareth](#), Humane Society International

Comprehensive street dog population management: Long-term impacts and community engagement in Vadodara & Dehradun, India

[Sanja Bianculli](#), Dogs Trust Bosnia

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Multi-stakeholder engagement progressing humane dog population management – a 10-year impact assessment

[Caroline Yates & Ana Metskhvarishvili](#), Mayhew Georgia

Addressing Dog population management issues in Georgia: The achievements & challenges of working with local & national stakeholders

[John Peaveler](#), Humane Innovations, LLC

Capture equipment and methods for dog population management programs

[Katja Guenther & Kristen Hassen](#), Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University

Understanding and challenging the long-term impact of the pound model on animal sheltering in the United States

Day 2

One Health

18 June, 11:00 – 13:00 GMT/UTC

[Matt Backhouse](#), FOUR PAWS International

Barriers to reaching “Zero by 30” rabies target in Southeast Asia

[Andre Coetzer](#), Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)

Communities Against Rabies: Unifying civil society in South Africa towards improved animal welfare and sustainable rabies control

[Bonny Cumming](#), Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities

Why it's the participants that matter most: AMRRIC's approach to requests for research collaboration

Jessica Hoopes, Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities
To treat or not to treat? Review of antibiotic use in Australian companion animal health programs reveals critical knowledge gaps in antibiotic prophylaxis for field-based desexing programs

Liliana Pacheco Ricote & Gregg Tully, Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT Centre) Nepal

A novel collaboration between the Kathmandu Municipality and Grassroots NGOs and veterinary clinics for Dog Population Management

Day 3

Urban Development and Government Leadership

19 June, 11:00 – 13:00 GMT/UTC

Patrick Gerard, ICAM

Urban Prosperity: the DPM advantage

Manuela Rowlings, Alesya Lischyshyna, & Dr. Helen Wormser, FOUR PAWS International, Four PAWS Ukraine, and StrayCoCo Foundation

Innovative partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit sector to achieve sustainable dog and/or cat population management – examples from Eastern Europe

Elena Dede, Dogs' Voice Greece

Population management during crisis response operations

Brunna Gabriela Gonçalves de Oliveira Ferreira & Vitor Gonçalves Teixeira, Universidade Federal do Paraná

PRODEVIDA: Advances and challenges in animal defense and population management of dogs and cats in the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil

Gisela Vico Pesch, Asociación Nacional Protectora de Animales (ANPA)

Breaking paradigms saves thousands of lives

Day 4

Rehoming and Cat Population Management

20 June, 11:00 – 13:00 GMT/UTC

Tamara Kartal, Chonnikarn Phochanakij, & Ivet Balchiklieva, FOUR PAWS International
Building strategic free-roaming cat management programmes—Examples from Sofia, Bulgaria and Bangkok, Thailand

Vicky Halls, International Cat Care

Completing the jigsaw puzzle of sustainable and effective cat population management

Jenni McDonald, Cats Protection

From counting to modelling: Bespoke methodology and insights into unowned cats in the UK

Jennifer Reed & Heather Kalman, Human Animal Support Services, Austin Pets Alive!

Harnessing people power to get pets back home

Vinicius Soares Santos, Federal University of Parana

Population management of dogs and cats and the Social Veterinary Medicine: Project for dogs and cats in vulnerability situation

The following presentations will be available as recorded video only, not streamed live:

Lu Baldan, Federal University of Paraná (UFPR)

Strategies to increase adoption rates in a Brazilian shelter dog

Irina Frasin, Gheorghe Zane Institute for Social and Economic Research, Romanian Academy Iasi Branch

Living with cats: Community cats, companion cats and special needs cats

Rae Foreman-Worsley, Cats Protection

The long-term effects of prepubertal neutering: Filling the evidence gap for veterinary stakeholders

Anu Pandey, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi

Man-dog conflict result of fractured system & apathetic governance

Day 5

Human Behaviour measurement and change

21 June, 11:00 – 13:00 GMT/UTC

Ala Izydorczyk, Soi Dog Foundation

Bangkok CNVR Programme – KAP Survey 2023 analysis

Gemma Ma, RSPCA NSW

Applying a human behaviour change approach to unowned cat management

Casey Quimby & Jessica Hoopes, Animals Fiji

Who let the dogs out? Unleashing solutions: Addressing human contributions to Fiji's free-roaming dog population

Maria Emilia Calero Cruz, Cumbay Cuidado Animal

Control of companion animal overpopulation and preventive medicine under the One Health approach: San Juan Cumbayá

Roshni Ladny & Deborah Wilson, Florida Gulf Coast University and The European Link Coalition

“Violence Against Animals as Violence Against Children”: Implications of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child GC 26 and Concluding Observations

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HUMANE DOG AND CAT POPULATION MANAGEMENT

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BARRIERS TO REACHING THE “ZERO BY 30” RABIES TARGET IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Presenting author: Matt Backhouse

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This presentation will explore some of the issues in meeting Zero by 30 within Southeast Asian/ASEAN countries, drawing on practical, political, economic and scientific perspectives. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the availability of canine vaccine and PEP dropped significantly worldwide, impacting existing vaccination efforts. The lack of quality surveillance data further impacts our ability to implement robust and effective programs. In rabies-endemic countries, the most vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by a lack of reporting and would benefit from an inter-sectoral approach from key stakeholders.

The presentation will also examine other key issues related to the rabies elimination target, particularly the dog and cat meat trade, both domestic and transboundary, and the need for concurrent humane and sustainable population management to tackle rabies. Countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand have shifted toward mass sheltering as a response to stray animal issues, along with the enforced muzzling, confinement, and elimination of dogs. These actions severely compromise their welfare.

These reactive strategies also fail to address the root causes of rabies transmission in animal populations and degrade public health and community support for sterilization and vaccination programs. A holistic, One Health approach requires significant financial investment, and a case must be made to national governments to invest and collaborate with multiple stakeholders and experts.

The theme of this year's World Rabies Day is Breaking Rabies Boundaries, highlighting the need to go beyond the norm and to break through the boundaries that prevent rabies elimination. If NGOs, expert coalitions, and private sector experts can work together and communicate a clear and cohesive message to local and national governments, we have a better chance of achieving the Zero by 2030 goal.

The following presentation will be in video format only on the conference website. It will not be streamed live.

STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ADOPTION RATES IN A BRAZILIAN SHELTER DOG

Presenting author: Ms. Lu Baldan¹

Coauthor: Rita de Cassia Maria Garcia²

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² Federal University of Paraná

Abandoned is a multifactorial problem that generates a negative impact on animal welfare and risks to public health. In Brazil it is an unfortunate situation and mostly abandoned dogs are taken in by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and independent protectors as foster home. To mitigate the abandonment problem, these organizations promoting adoption events. The aim of this project is promoting new strategies besides adoption events, adapting two programs developed by Maddie's® Foundation, Field Trip renamed as Passeio para Adoção (PA) and Sleepover as Lar Adotivo (LA). These programs were launched for the first time in Brazil in Curitiba city, state of Paraná, at Center of Reference for Animals at Risk (CRAR) a municipal shelter. All the dogs included in these programs participate in human-dog interaction and training protocols. The PA program is based on walks outside the shelter for a predetermined period, usually around 6 hours, on weekends. Dogs leave the shelter wearing a waistcoat written "adopt me", that allow them to have greater visibility

outside the shelter with a chance of future adoption. In the LA program, dogs leave the shelter to spend one or several nights in the adoptive homes, these sleepovers allow the family to interact with the dog outside the shelter, which can increase the chance of future adoption. To participate of these two programs voluntaries family registered through a form (google forms). Data were collected from October 2022 to September 2023 with 22 participating dogs, 31,82% (7/22) in both programs, 77,27% (17/22) dogs were adopted from PA and 40,91% (9/22) from LA; 36,36% (8/22) were adopted by the volunteer family, 12,5% (1/8) from PA and 87,5% (7/8) from LA. Applying the programs had a positive result, therefore, the programs were highly successful in adoption.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRESSING HUMANE DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT – A 10-YEAR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Presenting author: Ms. Sanja Bianculli

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In 2012 Dogs Trust commissioned a study in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to assess the situation regarding dog population management (DPM) and explore the feasibility of a Dogs Trust intervention.

The general public ranked the increasing number of “stray dogs” and stray dog attacks as their number one safety concern and wanted their removal from the street by any method. The dogs faced serious welfare problems, including increasing acts of animal cruelty. There was a lack of awareness about the importance of pets and responsible dog ownership (RDO), including poor understanding of the concept of sterilization. Abandonment was the main source of strays, although this was poorly appreciated by the public.

BiH had advanced animal welfare legislation adopted in 2009, including on humane DPM but implementation of legislation was poor, with local authorities only acknowledging the no-kill part of the legislation; lacking awareness, know-how and the resources. However, this promising legislation was an incentive for Dogs trust to become engaged.

Dogs Trust initially had a goal of supporting the Local Authority in Sarajevo city to implement the animal welfare legislation in relation to DPM. The programme included: working with the Veterinary faculty in Sarajevo to develop and provide post graduate training in humane surgical sterilisation; engaging private veterinary practices to neuter owned dogs and carry out catch neuter vaccinate return (CNVR) on roaming dogs through mass campaigns; work in schools to educate children on staying safe around dogs and RDO; develop and implement mass public awareness campaigns on RDO.

Positive results prompted further expansion of activities to other parts of BiH in subsequent years as well as starting Dog School (training classes for dogs and owners) and local adoption through a fostering programme.

In 2022 an impact study was carried out to identify the positive changes achieved, but also to understand the challenges and lessons learned in order to formulate next steps. This presentation will share the results of the impact study, in particular the importance of multi stakeholder engagement and the role of local government.

COMPREHENSIVE STREET DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT: LONG-TERM IMPACTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN VADODARA & DEHRADUN, INDIA

Presenting author: Dr. Amit Chaudhari & Keren Nazareth

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Sterilization is recognized globally as the most humane and effective way to manage free-roaming dog populations. However, the long-term effects of these initiatives are rarely assessed comprehensively. In partnership with the Vadodara and Dehradun Municipal Corporations in India, Humane Society International/India launched a dog population management program in 2016 in Dehradun and 2017 in Vadodara. The program aims to reduce human-dog conflict by lowering dog density and community engagement. We implemented a unique street count survey methodology using smartphones, which has since been adopted for similar surveys across India. This method effectively monitors and evaluates the impact of street dog sterilization programs. Additionally, an initiative named *Abhay Sankalp* educates the community about animal welfare laws, dog bite prevention, and peaceful co-existence with street dogs.

Continuous monitoring and evaluation are crucial for the program's success. We adopted a bi-annual cycle for street counts, conducting surveys during breeding months (October) and non-breeding months (May). For community engagement, our team collected baseline and periodic data, which helped navigate effective engagement efforts.

Dehradun Municipal Corporation: By October 2023, the program in Dehradun covered 42,725 dogs. The latest survey, conducted in October 2023 across 60 wards, found that 85.7% of dogs are sterilized, with 88.7% of female dogs and 83.0% of male dogs sterilized. The survey showed a 29.2% decrease in dog density compared to baseline.

Vadodara Municipal Corporation: Over 100,000 dogs have been sterilized since the program's inception in 2007 by various NGOs. The October 2023 survey across 12 wards revealed a 12.12% decline in dog density compared to baseline. Since October 2021, the program has maintained over 80% sterilization coverage. However, expanding the sterilization program to peripheral areas of the Vadodara would help achieve significant results similar to Dehradun.

Community Engagement: Our program in Vadodara and Dehradun works with communities to provide sustainable solutions for peaceful co-existence with street dogs. While most households feed street dogs, negative reactions can occur after dog bites or chasing incidents. Our team educates communities on existing solutions and laws and how to avoid dog bites with simple tips. We conduct dog behaviour workshops, first aid for street dogs, and school education programs to add value to the program. We encourage communities to bring street dogs for sterilization and vaccination, enhancing their involvement and contributing to the program's sustainability.

COMMUNITIES AGAINST RABIES: UNIFYING CIVIL SOCIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA TOWARDS IMPROVED ANIMAL WELFARE AND SUSTAINABLE RABIES CONTROL

Presenting author: Dr. Andre Coetzer¹

Coauthors: Dr. Terence Scott², Mr. Kim Doyle², Professor Louis Nell²

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² Global Alliance for Rabies Control

While the South African government is responsible for coordinating and implementing rabies elimination efforts throughout the country, the operational delivery is often limited by the availability of trained personnel, funding, and resources. In response, civil society organisation often supplement

those efforts by supporting areas where government programs cannot reach and offering additional services that are not typically provided by the government (e.g., DPM). However, these non-governmental stakeholders typically don't have the time or resources to spare for training of staff and volunteers, use of software that often comes at a cost, new collaborative outreaches and strategic fundraising/donor engagement. As a result, their outreaches often remain localised and their significant impact and contribution towards improved animal welfare and rabies control goes largely unnoticed.

To overcome these shortcomings and highlight the pivot role that civil society stakeholders play in South Africa, the Communities Against Rabies (CAR) initiative was established by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and has since then worked towards empowering the existing stakeholders, improve coordination, and highlight the impact that their efforts are making. To achieve this, the CAR initiative relies on an ever-expanding network of organisations that are reliable, valuable contributors towards rabies control and improved animal welfare at the community-level throughout the country. By partnering with GARC – and utilising the free tools and resources GARC has to offer – the organisations become recognised as 'Rabies Centers of Excellence' (RCEs), allowing them to benefit from ongoing technical support and guidance, additional opportunities for capacity building and resources and increased global visibility and recognition for additional funding opportunities.

Since the launch of the CAR initiative at the end of 2023, six organizations in South Africa have been recognized as RCEs with those organizations benefitting from improve operational capacity, coordination, and collaboration. In addition, the recognized RCES have also been enabled to reach more communities without additional strain because of improved linkages with local/national government and other community actors. With the CAR initiative still rolling out across the country – and various stakeholders currently working toward joining the newly formed network of excellence – the initiative is already proving beneficial to the civil society organizations and the communities that they serve on a day-to-day basis.

CONTROL OF COMPANION ANIMAL OVERPOPULATION AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE UNDER THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH: SAN JUAN CUMBAYÁ

Presenting author: Ms. Maria Emilia Calero Cruz¹

Coauthors: Fernando Arroyo² & Agustin Obarrio³

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1. Objectives

- 1.1. Establish a method to quantify animals, their well-being, human attitudes, and compare over time.
- 1.2. Execute preventive medicine campaigns in companion animals, based on the concept of One Health.
- 1.3. Carry out permanent awareness actions for responsible coexistence with companion animals, from various perspectives.

2. Methodology

The project began by delimiting the San Juan neighborhood, classifying the profile of families and animals to be served, prioritizing those with greater economic needs and a large number of animals. In 2020, CAP surveys and census were conducted. In 2023, the same interviews were repeated with caregivers to assess the impact. Based on the initial data, preventive medicine campaigns were planned, including internal deworming, rabies, multiple or triple vaccination, spay and neuter, with differentiated prices according to caregivers' needs. Educational campaigns were conducted using culture and tradition as a starting point, targeting: neighborhood residents, the Local Government, veterinary faculties, and specific actions were established with human medicine institutions. Efforts were made to

improve the human-animal bond through cultural exchanges, community libraries, reading promotion and projects to improve families' quality of life.

3. Results

3.1. Initial diagnosis found: 789 people, 363 dogs, 140 cats. The ratio of non-human animals to humans is 1.6. In 2024: 553 people, 312 dogs, 138 cats, with a ratio of 1.4.

3.2. In 2020: 5.96% of spay animals, 14.71% received veterinary care, 54.08% rabies vaccine, 23.66% another vaccine, 62.23% dewormed. In 2024: 67.56% were spay, 80.89% received veterinary care, 88% rabies vaccine, 83.78% another vaccine, 92.67% dewormed.

3.3. Animals intervened: 609 through neighborhood campaigns, 2900 to the general public.

3.4. Two neighborhood events held with theater, talks, murals, etc.

3.5. Photographic project to be exhibited at the "City Museum" from May to September, including educational work with the neighborhood, workshops, coordinating a congress with the veterinary academy and the Quito Municipality, etc.

4. Conclusions

4.1. Main obstacle to providing health care to animals is lack of resources; this determinant was minimized through subsidies.

4.2. Problem of access to veterinary services was eliminated by having quality medicine center in the neighborhood; lack of access to information was overcome with educational campaigns.

4.3. Deep work to improve self-esteem, tradition, and culture will enhance the quality of life for animals, humans and environment.

WHY IT'S THE PARTICIPANTS THAT MATTER MOST: AMRRIC'S APPROACH TO REQUESTS FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Presenting author: Dr. Bonny Cumming¹

Coauthor: Dr. Jessica Hoopes²

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Increasing awareness of the links between the health of people, animals, and the environment, has led to growing motivations for undertaking One Health research. Given the social determinants that drive overpopulation, including socioeconomic status and access to veterinary services, free-roaming dogs and cats provide an ideal focus for investigations around disease ecology and zoonotic disease risks. Free-roaming cat and dog populations are drawing increasing interest from the research community, with a number of animal rescues and animal management programs fielding requests from researchers for their assistance in undertaking research projects. While the outcomes of this research have the potential to address critical knowledge gaps and facilitate long-term benefits for human and animal health, there is also the potential for negative impacts on both the animals and the local communities.

In many cases, research priorities are externally motivated, and provide little by way of tangible benefits to animal owners volunteering their pets to participate in the study. Many Indigenous communities around the globe bear scars from colonization and the imposition of historical research practices, underscoring the importance of identifying and mitigating the risks of negative research impacts. As an organisation that regularly acts as a conduit between researchers and remote Indigenous communities, Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities discusses our approach to respectful research collaborations that maximize positive impacts for participants and communities, reflect local priorities, ensure quality and respectful engagement, local leadership, and integrate effective knowledge translation and local capacity building. By giving this presentation, we hope to encourage other organisations to adopt similar approaches to research to ensure that animal management groups are acting as the best possible allies for the communities we serve.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT DURING CRISIS RESPONSE OPERATIONS

Presenting author: Ms. Elena Dede

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In times of natural disasters, companion animals often find themselves in vulnerable situations, facing threats to their safety and well-being alongside their human counterparts. Addressing the unique needs of these cherished animals in emergency situations requires comprehensive operational protocols that prioritize their welfare and ensure effective crisis response. This presentation delves into the development and implementation of such protocols, aiming to shed light on the importance of companion animal care during crises and provide actionable insights for enhancing response strategies.

This presentation is addressing the management protocols applied by the leading expert organization in crisis response in Greece, Dogs' Voice, that has been the first responder from 2017 to present.

Drawing from lessons learned from past crises, including natural disasters and the COVID pandemic, the presentation explores the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by companion animals. Factors such as evacuation procedures, sheltering arrangements, access to veterinary care, and reunification efforts emerge as critical considerations in ensuring their safety and well-being amidst chaos.

Central to the discussion are the principles of preparedness, coordination, and collaboration among stakeholders involved in crisis response. From government agencies and non-profit organizations to veterinary professionals and community members, effective communication and cooperation are essential for executing operational protocols that prioritize companion animal welfare.

The presentation outlines a framework for developing comprehensive crisis response protocols, encompassing pre-crisis planning, immediate response actions, and long-term recovery efforts. Key components include:

1. Risk Assessment and Planning: Identifying potential hazards and vulnerabilities, conducting risk assessments for companion animals, and integrating animal welfare considerations into emergency response plans.
2. Emergency Sheltering and Care: Establishing protocols for the evacuation, sheltering, and provision of essential care for companion animals, including medical attention, nutrition, and behavioral support.
3. Identification and Reunification: Implementing systems for the identification, tracking, and reunification of lost or displaced companion animals with their owners, leveraging technologies such as microchipping and centralized databases.
4. Community Outreach and Education: Engaging with pet owners, local communities, and emergency responders through outreach initiatives, educational campaigns, and training programs to foster awareness and preparedness for companion animal care in crises.

By integrating these components into operational protocols, communities can enhance their capacity to protect and support companion animals during emergencies, mitigating harm and promoting resilience for both animals and their human caregivers. Through collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to compassionate response, we can build more resilient and inclusive crisis management systems that safeguard the well-being of all members of our communities, including our beloved companion animals.

Please review our report for 2023:

https://www.dogsvoice.gr/managed_images/DogsVoice_report_2023.pdf

PRODEVIDA: ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES IN ANIMAL DEFENSE AND POPULATION MANAGEMENT OF DOGS AND CATS IN THE STATE OF MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL

Presenting authors: Ms. Brunna Gabriela Gonçalves de Oliveira Ferreira¹ and Mr. Vitor Gonçalves Teixeira²

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The Regional Program for the Defense of Animal Life (PRODEVIDA) was established in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, by the State Coordination for the Defense of Animals of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Minas Gerais (CEDA-MPMG), with the purpose of implementing public policies for the population management of dogs and cats. The primary objective of the organization is to assist member municipalities in the implementation of ethical and effective programs in accordance with Federal Law No. 13,426/2017 and State Law No. 21,970/2016. Membership in PRODEVIDA is voluntary for municipalities, which must sign a Conduct Adjustment Agreement with the Public Prosecutor's Office of Minas Gerais. This agreement commits municipalities to comply with a series of measures, including the annual surgical sterilization of 10% of the dog and cat population, promotion of responsible guardianship, registration and identification of animals, as well as adoption programs, among other actions. In return, PRODEVIDA provides financial support for the implementation of public policies, including the purchase of Mobile Sterilization and Health Education Units, educational materials and training for municipal administrators, civil servants and animal advocates, provided by the Institute of Collective Veterinary Medicine. Currently, 306 of Minas Gerais' 853 municipalities participate in the program, resulting in the annual sterilization of 200,812 animals. The program represents a significant step forward in the promotion of animal welfare and the implementation of effective public policies for the population management of dogs and cats in Minas Gerais. It demonstrates a genuine commitment to animal protection and the development of a more aware and responsible society, proposing substantial improvements in the care and management of domestic animals. Furthermore, it serves as a model to be replicated in other regions of Brazil and even in other countries.

The following presentation will be in video format only on the conference website. It will not be streamed live.

THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF PREPUBERTAL NEUTERING: FILLING THE EVIDENCE GAP FOR VETERINARY STAKEHOLDERS

Presenting author: Dr. Rae Foreman-Worsley

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Neutering of domestic cats is beneficial for population management, reducing unwanted cats free-roaming and in shelters. As cats reach sexual maturity at four months, prepubertal neutering is recommended to prevent unplanned litters, with modelling studies finding neuter age to have a profound impact on the numbers of unowned cats within the UK. Whilst prepubertal neutering is relatively commonplace within the shelter sector, prepubertal neutering is not practised consistently within the veterinary profession for owned cats. One concern from veterinarians that do not routinely undertake prepubertal neutering is the impact on a cat's long-term development. Neutering has been

identified as a risk-factor for obesity, however whether this risk increases for cats that are neutered prepubertally is unknown.

In our study, we set out to explore whether body condition score (BCS) and bodyweight vary across lifestages as a function of neutering at the currently recommended four months compared to the historically recommended six months. Using longitudinal data from the Bristol Cat Study, veterinary clinical measurements of BCS and bodyweight paired with owner-reported auxiliary information were used to explore a range of potential risk factors for BCS and bodyweight as cats age.

We found cats neutered up to 7 months of age all followed similar bodyweight trajectories and BCS throughout their lifetime. Additionally, we highlight the importance of considering sex and season within these analyses, and the challenges of using BCS measurements on long haired cats.

Although BCS and bodyweight may be useful as general health indicators when triangulated with other metrics, this study cannot infer welfare of any of the cat subpopulations. However, these results provide reassurance to the veterinary profession that weight management advice is equally applicable to cats neutered up to seven months of age. This evidence adds to the support for prepubertal neutering at the general population level as a positive cat welfare intervention.

The following presentation will be in video format only on the conference website. It will not be streamed live.

LIVING WITH CATS: COMMUNITY CATS, COMPANION CATS AND SPECIAL NEEDS CATS

Presenting author: Dr. Irina Frasin

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In Romania we have a very large population of free roaming cats but their presence and lifestyle are mostly ignored. There are no public shelters for cats (they only get very few places in dog shelters, and this is very concerning regarding their welfare). In general we know that cats do not fare well in captivity / shelters so the organisations, NGOs that are involved in taking care of cats, mainly involve themselves in TNR programs and promote fostering. But there are also cats that are sick or injured, or too young or too old and for these cats everyone is relying on volunteers (either in shelters or foster homes).

The main purpose of my research is to question the best methods of going forward in caring for the cats we live with (or who live around us). I try to argue that developing the shelter system and building more shelters is not the best way to go forward. We need first of all to make the effort to better understand our feline friends (in order to better respond to their needs) and then build a network of support for people working to save and take care of cats (getting to them the information they need, social services of veterinary care, encourage donations in products from restaurants or supermarkets, etc.). We have to treat the cats as partners, co-workers (especially people like me involved in studying them), we need to promote the idea that we share the city with other intelligent and sentient living beings that have just as much place there as we have. In promoting this message, the community cats may work as an example. Understanding better the communities of free-roaming animals we get a better chance to build a more humane and open multi-species society.

I think and hope that sharing these findings with people from other cultures and societies who also focus on "building" cat-friendly communities will enrich both our perspectives.

URBAN PROSPERITY: THE DPM ADVANTAGE

Presenting author: Patrick Gerard

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Just as cities are dense with people, buildings, and businesses, they can also be home to a high number of free roaming dogs. Cities, and their citizens, can offer these dogs access to food and shelter, but, when the dog population is unmanaged, cities also pose significant risks to their wellbeing, whether from traffic accidents, disease, or intolerance and cruelty.

Humane dog population management (DPM) in cities helps prevent dogs and puppies from suffering and reduces accidents. It improves dog health through disease control and sterilisation and promotes compassionate interactions between people and dogs, encouraging responsible dog ownership, whether that be individual, family ownership, or ownership in the community. By sustainably reducing the number and breeding activity of dogs over time, DPM also reduces nuisance behaviour and dog bite incidents, alleviating pressure on local governments by reducing complaints.

Moreover, effective DPM also elevates the city, making neighbourhoods safer and more pleasant to live in, improving the city's public image, and fostering conditions that attract investments and spur economic growth. In today's global economy, where cities want to attract increasingly mobile capital that is not bound to specific locations, the role of DPM in creating attractive, investment-worthy urban environments is more critical than ever and deserves greater focus.

Despite the evident benefits to urban centres and their residents, there remains a substantial, untapped potential for shared benefits through collaboration between DPM professionals and economic and urban development stakeholders including city leaders, planners, developers and investors. This presentation will explore how these partnerships can be mutually beneficial and will offer strategies for DPM professionals to effectively promote the significance of their work within urban and economic development discussions.

UNDERSTANDING AND CHALLENGING THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF THE POUND MODEL ON ANIMAL SHELTERING IN THE UNITED STATES

Presenting authors: Professor Katja M. Guenther¹ & Ms. Kristen Hassen²

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Despite significant strides in animal shelter reform in the United States over the years, resulting in a marked decrease in the influx of animals into shelters and in an increase in live releases, the fundamental framework of contemporary animal sheltering in the US remains rooted in its origins from the late 1800s and early 1900s. In this presentation, two specialists on animal sheltering in the US examine the historical legacies of animal control and sheltering in the US to show how they are problematic and dysfunctional and need to be abandoned to improve the lives of companion animals and the human communities of which they are a part. The legacies stemming from the early pound model of animal control and sheltering, which developed in the late 1800s, continue to significantly influence shelter operations today. The pound model of managing populations of unhoused or otherwise surplus cats and dogs centers on a pair of ideas, namely that companion animals must be under the direct control of a human guardian and that capturing and often killing animals is morally justifiable and even necessary. While contemporary shelters have adopted new monikers, like "care center," the characteristics of the pound model persist. The institutional ethos of animal shelters, deeply entrenched in the practices of confinement and killing, endure as a defining characteristic. Further, there remains a notable lack of transparency and visibility in US shelters, particularly within

government-funded shelters, hindering accountability and public awareness. Finally, the economic principles underlying the pound model, including resource discrepancies across different communities, continue to shape sheltering practices and outcomes. Scrutinizing the historical foundations of animal control and sheltering and pinpointing the specific legacies of the pound model within contemporary shelters offers valuable insights into the entrenched practices and ideologies that have defined sheltering in the US. While the US is sometimes hailed as a world leader in effective management of companion animals, the persistence of the pound model destabilizes this belief. Recognizing the problematic history and continued challenges of the US sheltering industry serves as a crucial foundation for envisaging and implementing radical transformations within the animal sheltering landscape in the US and beyond.

COMPLETING THE JIGSAW PUZZLE OF SUSTAINABLE AND EFFECTIVE CAT POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Presenting author: Vicky Halls

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There are many thousands of people working with unowned cats throughout the world, often based on a rescue/reactive model, focusing on taking cats out of situations that are perceived dangerous into the comparative safety of a shelter cage or foster home or Trap, Neuter, Return for free-roaming populations. This approach treats the symptoms of the underlying problems, understandably so, as this is easier to manage and offers something tangible to measure – “we rescued 300 cats this year”, “we neutered 200 cats”.

As a result of working in a flawed system, there are some misconceptions that have framed cat population management. Not least of which is the conflation between CPM and TNR. There is no end goal with CPM, there is no two- year plan of TNR that reaps long-term results. Sustainable CPM isn’t just about TNR, it is about completing a jigsaw puzzle of interconnected strategies and interventions, discussed in this presentation, that work in conjunction with each other to work towards a cat population where every cat has good welfare, their impact on their environment is not deleterious and the community welcomes and embraces their presence.

We can only speculate how different things could have been if the sector shifted to a more proactive, preventative and strategic way of working. The situation of cat overpopulation is not going to get better quickly and there is no long-term benefit in continuing to fire-fight to manage symptoms without starting to address the root causes. Cat Friendly Solutions for Unowned Cats provides potential answers.

This will take a joined-up, collaborative approach, where resources are pooled and no one individual or organisation has any other agenda but to solve the issue of cat overpopulation, poor welfare, and negative impact.

International Cat Care, supported by a grant from the Battersea Global Enabler Programme, has embarked on a three-year project in five pilot countries to explore how this strategic and collaborative approach might be integrated into current working practices in the UK, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus and Australia. As part of the process in the first year, iCatCare will gather insight and identify appropriate stakeholders in those countries to take the Cat Friendly model forward.

For further information on Cat Friendly Solutions for Unowned Cats, see www.icatcare.org/unowned-cats/.

TO TREAT OR NOT TO TREAT? REVIEW OF ANTIBIOTIC USE IN AUSTRALIAN COMPANION ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMS REVEALS CRITICAL KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS FOR FIELD-BASED DESEXING PROGRAMS

Presenting author: Dr. Jessica Hoopes¹

Coauthors: Bonny Cumming², Teresa Wozniak³, Lorraine Bell³, Bindee Davis², Barbara Hostalek^{2,4}

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Increasing awareness of the links between the health of people, animals, and the environment, has led to growing motivations for undertaking One Health research. Given the social determinants that drive overpopulation, including socioeconomic status and access to veterinary services, free-roaming dogs and cats provide an ideal focus for investigations around disease ecology and zoonotic disease risks. Free-roaming cat and dog populations are drawing increasing interest from the research community, with a number of animal rescues and animal management programs fielding requests from researchers for their assistance in undertaking research projects. While the outcomes of this research have the potential to address critical knowledge gaps and facilitate long-term benefits for human and animal health, there is also the potential for negative impacts on both the animals and the local communities.

In many cases, research priorities are externally motivated, and provide little by way of tangible benefits to animal owners volunteering their pets to participate in the study. Many Indigenous communities around the globe bear scars from colonization and the imposition of historical research practices, underscoring the importance of identifying and mitigating the risks of negative research impacts. As an organisation that regularly acts as a conduit between researchers and remote Indigenous communities, Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities discusses our approach to respectful research collaborations that maximize positive impacts for participants and communities, reflect local priorities, ensure quality and respectful engagement, local leadership, and integrate effective knowledge translation and local capacity building. By giving this presentation, we hope to encourage other organisations to adopt similar approaches to research to ensure that animal management groups are acting as the best possible allies for the communities we serve.

BANGKOK CNVR PROGRAMME – KAP SURVEY 2023 ANALYSIS

Presenting author: Dr. Alicja (Ala) Izydorczyk¹

Coauthor: Dr. Oob-Tuntikorn Rungpatana²

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All across Thailand millions of free-roaming dogs live amongst the local communities, where, on the one hand, they are accepted as part of the fabric of society, while on the other, they suffer significant dog health and welfare issues.

Soi Dog Foundation, in partnership with Dogs Trust Worldwide, has been running a large scale CNVR (Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return) programme in Greater Bangkok since mid-2016 with the goals of improving dog welfare, eliminating rabies and improving the human-dog relationship. Starting with only 1 Mobile Team in 2016, presently there are 10 Mobile Teams working in the Greater Bangkok area.

To date, over 500 000 free-roaming dogs have been sterilised and vaccinated. Dog density has reduced significantly over time, with an average decline of 54% over a 7-year period; there has been a reduction

in the incidence of rabies and, according to our annual animal welfare survey, a marked improvement in street dog welfare.

The Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey aimed to explore the differences in the attitudes and behaviours towards free-roaming dogs in the areas of Greater Bangkok receiving different levels of CNVR effort over the past 7 years. It also aimed to explore the owned dog population, including an estimate of number of owned dogs in the Greater Bangkok area and the care provided to them. Human behaviour is the main reason behind the street dog problem, hence KAP survey findings can inform adaptation of population management and add weight to the evaluation of the impact of a CNVR programme.

BUILDING STRATEGIC FREE-ROAMING CAT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES— EXAMPLES FROM SOFIA, BULGARIA AND BANGKOK, THAILAND

Presenting authors: Tamara Kartal, Chonnikarn Phochanakij, Ivet Balchiklieva

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Municipalities who have succeeded in humanely managing their free roaming dog populations are starting to shift their focus to cats. Although cats do not pose a public health risk in terms of bites or rabies, their increasing number and presence in all spaces available to them create problems and public concerns that are distinctly different from that reported for dogs. And although at this point vast experiences with free roaming dog management programmes is available, this cannot be said for cats. Studies to understand the population dynamics and human behaviours supporting large numbers of cats on the street are comparatively still in their beginnings.

In Sofia, the capital city of Bulgaria, we used two different survey methods, Mark-recapture and observational survey, and explored different estimation models to generate total estimates of cats for the city overall and its 24 neighbourhoods. Veterinarians as one of the most important stakeholder, influence common sterilisation practices and are therefore a key driver of change. We conducted a survey of veterinarians across the country to understand how veterinary advice and attitudes towards sterilisation of cats potentially contribute to the free roaming cat population.

In the Wat That Thong temple in Bangkok, we conducted a TNVR and access to care project. To establish a baseline and to monitor the sterilisation rate of the free-roaming cat population after the TNVR project, we conducted observational surveys along pathways in the temple complex, pre and post the TNVR intervention. In addition we conducted interviews with temple residence who owned cats and were the main caretaker of the free-roaming cats in the temple. The results of the survey showed that access to veterinary care for owned and roaming cats was almost zero but the willingness to help and sterilise the cats was high. Veterinary and community buy-in and support in TNVR projects are important assets when designing sustainable free-roaming cat projects.

“VIOLENCE AGAINST ANIMALS AS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN”: IMPLICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD GC 26 AND CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

Presenting authors: Dr. Roshni T. Ladny PhD¹ & Ms. Deborah Wilson MA, RMHN²

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The link between animal abuse and violence against humans has echoed in the USA for decades. International research and policy efforts, however, have historically been less definitive in acknowledging the link between exposure to animal cruelty and human violence, especially endemic and institutionalized forms of violence against animals that are witnessed by children. Select recent research has highlighted the serious harms of childhood exposure to violence against animals. These harms may be more salient in children exposed to animal cruelty compared to adults in part due to children's greater predisposition to "biophilia", which refers to the innate connections humans have with the natural world, including animals. Across the world, there are sociopolitical and cultural challenges to implementing long-term change to humanely and effectively control homeless animal populations and jointly protect children, who are negatively affected by these violent cullings. In response to the ongoing research and advocacy conducted by volunteer-based international organization The European Link Coalition (ELC), the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) acknowledged the bond between children and animals and the trauma that results in many different cultures when children are exposed to animal cruelty, including endemic animal cruelty against companion animals. Consequently, when UN CRC recently provided authoritative clarity through General Comment 26 (GC 26) regarding nations' "strict obligation" to change policies, practices and laws to maintain compliance with the "legally binding" UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, child protection against animal cruelty was included. These efforts also contributed to country-specific UN CRC Concluding Observations regarding the need for strong measures to protect children from animal cruelty including trophy hunting and violent culling of homeless animals. GC 26, specifically directs countries to uphold children's right to a healthy and sustainable environment and includes the words "Children must be protected from all forms of physical and psychological violence and from exposure to violence, such as domestic violence or violence inflicted on animals" (UNCRC GC 26, 2023). Effectively, GC 26 elevates animal welfare, specifically violence against animals, into the Human Rights domain for the first time in history. Using an Ecological Model of Violence and Violence Prevention, the interconnection between animal welfare, human welfare, the environment, and societal conditions are presented. Research and future protocols for this "barrier breaking" beginning of a paradigm shift are then discussed.

APPLYING A HUMAN BEHAVIOUR CHANGE APPROACH TO UNOWNED CAT MANAGEMENT

Presenting author: Dr. Gemma Ma
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Unowned cats have been an intractable problem in Australia for decades. They can have poor welfare, predate wildlife, create a community nuisance and contribute many thousands of orphaned kittens to animal shelters each year. Attempts to manage unowned cat populations with low intensity culling, or trap and rehome programs have consistently been ineffective. We used a human behaviour change approach to implement RSPCA NSW StrayCare programs, which aim to engage with caregivers of unowned cats, remove barriers to having those cats neutered, and in the process convert their "semi-owners" to "owners". Free cat neutering and permanent identification (microchipping) was strategically promoted through doorknocking and letter box drops to people caring for unowned "stray" cats (cat semi-owners) and to cat owners overwhelmed with multiple cats. Partnerships with local council animal management staff, local cat rescue volunteers, and other community organisations helped remove additional barriers to cat caregivers accessing neutering for their cats such as inability to catch the cats, lack of transportation, lack of cat carriers and language barriers. In the first 12 months, the programs desexed over 1,500 cats and resulted in reductions in cat-related nuisance complaints of up to 60% and reductions in animal shelter cat intake of 30-90%.

FROM COUNTING TO MODELLING: BESPOKE METHODOLOGY AND INSIGHTS INTO UNOWNED CATS IN THE UK

Presenting author: Dr. Jenni McDonald

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Drawing from newly developed statistical and population modelling tools we take a look at the unowned cat population in the UK. We highlight the need to move away from a purely numbers-based approach, to considering the context of populations, including different types of cats (owned, unowned and shelter) and their connections.

As free-roaming animal populations are hard to count, we highlight the benefits of citizen science data, which can provide a vast resource on the suspected locations and numbers of unowned cats, often from otherwise inaccessible locations and at a scale much greater than individual researchers could work at. However, this type of data can raise concerns around data quality and biases, especially as owned and unowned cats are often indistinguishable. Here, we highlight a newly designed modelling approach (Integrated Abundance Models: IAMs) to account for the biases caused by misidentification of unowned cats by pairing citizen science data with expert data for specific sites. Using this approach, we demonstrate that deprivation indices and human population densities contribute to the number of unowned cats in an area and provide the first estimate of unowned cats across urban areas in the UK.

Additionally, understanding the mechanisms underpinning numbers of unowned cats requires explicit consideration of the fluidity of cat populations. Using a UK-focussed cat population model, we highlight the importance of the interlinks between the owned and unowned subpopulations. Specifically, through examples, we find changes to owned cat husbandry alone can have profound impacts on the unowned cat population.

Together, our results highlight the importance of human-mediated factors, including owned cat husbandry on the unowned cat population in the UK. We now have the statistical and population modelling tools to take forward to further understand this population.

The following presentation will be in video format only on the conference website. It will not be streamed live.

MAN-DOG CONFLICT RESULT OF FRACTURED SYSTEM & APATHETIC GOVERNANCE

Presenting author: Professor Anu Pandey¹

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India a country which was once the epitome of non-violence and peaceful coexistence between humans and animals has today become quite intolerant and violent towards community animals especially dogs. Cruelties towards dogs such as killings, beatings, relocations etc. have become quite common in Delhi NCR (National Capital Region). In spite of having animal protection laws and ABC (Animal Birth Control) rules to control stray dog population the man-dog conflict has only increased. This is an empirical paper which looks into the reasons why conflicts rose and how municipal corporations and animals welfare bodies have miserably failed in reducing conflicts in Delhi NCR (National Capital Region). Why ABC has not been impactful even though its prevailing since 2001. Why there is growing hatred for dogs and hence cruelties? Why law enforcement agencies are failing in curbing violence and why there is general apathy towards dogs? The paper

is divided into four parts. First part is literature review which talks about Indian dogs and its place in Indian society. Second part gives a general overview about the existing policies and rules governing stray dogs. Third part analyses the empirical data received using questionnaire filled by 869 respondents living in Delhi NCR. Fourth part gives findings, conclusions and recommendations.

CAPTURE EQUIPMENT AND METHODS FOR DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Presenting author: Mr. John Peaveler

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Capture equipment and methods will look different in communities around the world due primarily to animal flight distance, prices, equipment availability, regulations, and ecosystem type. Meanwhile, capture equipment manufacturing and design continues to make progress, albeit unevenly across the globe. This session will provide a high-level overview of capture methods in use globally along with notes on pros and cons of each method.

Additionally, this session will highlight new technologies, human safety considerations, and animal stress factors related to capture methods. Many projects globally, including government programs, struggle to transition from DPM knowledge and planning to implementation, due in part to an inability to capture and process a sufficient number of animals within the time required to make a population level impact. This session will help lay the groundwork for success of both new and growing programs.

BREAKING PARADIGMS SAVES THOUSANDS OF LIVES

Presenting author: Ms. Gisela Vico Pesch¹

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After working for 20 years as a welfare organization, managing a shelter, and receiving and picking up dogs and cats, in the year 2000, ANPA made a decisive decision and changed its approach to a preventive one. It began its companion animal population management program, which has already exceeded 180 thousand spay-neuter surgeries and sensitized 65,000 people directly.

In the year 2002, for the first time in the history of Costa Rica, a local government was involved, coincidentally the largest in the country, the Municipality of San José. Since then, we have developed a series of tools to work with local governments, reaching 68% of them in 22 years.

Our desire is to share our techniques. Despite Costa Rica being a country of only 5.2 million inhabitants, it has 83 local governments, each functioning differently.

We will discuss the local government meetings in favor of animal welfare that we implement, the virtual meetings in which we have participated alongside the state entity responsible for animal welfare, and the activities developed in conjunction with the National Distance University (UNED) for those working in local governments.

The commitment from governments continues to grow, and in 2023 another historical milestone was reached: more than 30 tenders related to canine and feline population management programs were

initiated. Unfortunately, a significant number of contracts were not executed due to unprofessional approaches that did not align with local needs.

ANPA thus confirms what it had already identified: a great opportunity for improvement and the urgent need to create a program that equips decision-makers with the necessary tools to maximize public resources and achieve the desired impact. In 2023, ANPA developed a capacity-building program for local governments on animal welfare issues, primarily focusing on companion animal management programs based on ICAM guidelines, called FoCaBa. We will implement it as a pilot program in one or two local governments in 2024. Undoubtedly, ANPA's efforts are bearing fruit, resulting in approximately 38 thousand spay-neuter surgeries carried out in collaboration with local governments, 11 contracts for the development of educational programs, and an expenditure of 925 thousand dollars.

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT? UNLEASHING SOLUTIONS: ADDRESSING HUMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIJI'S FREE-ROAMING DOG POPULATION

Presenting authors: Ms. Casey Quimby & Dr. Jessica Hoopes

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In Fiji, the ubiquitous presence and proliferation of free-roaming dogs presents a pressing challenge. Our presentation delves into the intricate dynamics between caregivers, dog owners, and the unchecked growth of the dog population. Drawing from a household survey conducted in the Tavakubu Ward of Lautoka City, our findings underscore a disconcerting reality: while over 60% of the populace actively feeds roaming dogs without claiming ownership, only 40% actually claim to own a dog. Additionally, merely 11% of owned dogs have been sterilized. This dichotomy reveals a spectrum ranging from ownership apathy to indiscriminate feeding, both fueling the unchecked breeding of free-roaming dogs. Our research posits that fostering a culture of responsible pet ownership, including widespread sterilization efforts and resources to carry out such efforts, is paramount to tackling Fiji's free-roaming dog crisis.

Moreover, we critically assess whether well-intentioned outreach initiatives, such as FJ\$1 donation drives, inadvertently perpetuate a "Toxic Charity" model of animal welfare in Fiji, as posited by Lupton (2011). Through our discussion, we explore avenues to shift human behavior towards more sustainable solutions. We probe the mechanisms for curbing detrimental behaviors and harnessing the symbiotic relationship between humans and canines for the betterment of both populations. Our analysis delves into the psychology of behavior change, considering factors such as cultural norms, gender dynamics, income disparities, and national gross domestic product. By elucidating these multifaceted dynamics, our presentation seeks to chart a path towards effective interventions in collaboration with stakeholders to address Fiji's free-roaming dog predicament.

HARNESSING PEOPLE POWER TO GET PETS BACK HOME

Presenting authors: Mrs. Jenifer Reed and Mrs. Heather Kalman

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What do people in your community do when they find a lost pet? In the United States, the majority of pets enter animal shelters as lost pets, making supporting this population the greatest opportunity for lifesaving and community engagement. In this presentation, the Human Animal Support Services (HASS) team will present data-backed solutions based on community behavior trends to help your organization get more lost pets home and reduce shelter overcrowding.

Attendees can expect to leave with tools for implementing lost pet reunification programs like short-term foster placements, tracking actionable data, and enhancing lost and found pet communication strategies. By leveraging a shelter support framework and community participation, we can reduce shelter intake, increase return-to-home rates, and create more advocates for lost and stray pets!

A NOVEL COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE KATHMANDU MUNICIPALITY AND GRASSROOTS NGOS AND VETERINARY CLINICS FOR DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Presenting authors: Ms. Liliana Pacheco Ricote & Dr. Gregg Tully

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Kathmandu, Nepal is home to tens of thousands of roaming dogs, and fear of rabies is pervasive. The human population of the Kathmandu Valley has been rapidly increasing for decades, engendering significant growth in the canine population. Decades of strychnine poisoning by government agencies was ineffective at population control as well as cruel and dangerous. More recent dog population management efforts either were conducted on an inadequate scale to counter the growing dog population or were discontinued within several years.

The Kathmandu municipal government recently launched a novel approach to sustainably manage the roaming canine population. Rather than relying on government staff or a single large foreign NGO, they assigned different areas of the city to nine local organizations and veterinary clinics, and they provide funding to each for sterilization and vaccination of roaming dogs in their working area.

There were challenges in the tender process, with some contracts signed with low bidders rather than organizations with reputations for conducting safe, humane surgery. After meetings about the welfare of the dogs, the municipality is now more discerning in selecting partners.

The initial plan did not include dog population surveys, instead depending on the number of dogs sterilized as an indicator of success. Personnel of the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT Centre) Nepal persuaded the Kathmandu municipality of the importance of collecting data and demonstrating the impact of the program on the size and health of the roaming dog population. KAT Centre representatives then provided training to all the participating NGOs and clinics about methods for consistent dog surveys, the Talea app, identifying sterilized males and females, recognizing skin conditions, and assessing body condition score, to ensure the data collection is as uniform as possible throughout the city. Furthermore, they trained staff of Kathmandu's IT department to be administrators of Talea.

While the collaboration between the Kathmandu municipality and nine local NGOs and clinics is too recent to produce measurable results yet, this method is very promising. The participating organizations are permanently based in the Kathmandu Valley and their missions focus on the long-term health of Kathmandu's canine population, so the program is not subjected to sometimes-shifting priorities of foreign NGOs. If a participating organization becomes unable to effectively engage in the program, their working area will easily be assigned to one of the other participants. Consistent, uniform data collection will provide publishable evidence of the efficacy of this new approach.

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT SECTOR TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DOG AND/OR CAT POPULATION MANAGEMENT – EXAMPLES FROM EASTERN EUROPE

Presenting authors: Manuela Rowlings¹, Alesya Lischyshyna², & Dr. Helen Wormser³

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While the provision of high-quality, high-volume sterilisation services is a necessary component of all dog and cat population management programs, many countries around the world lack small animal veterinary capacity, as well as limited financial resources to dedicate to such programs. This presentation aims to highlight innovative approaches to sustainably build veterinary capacity at local level, ensuring that dogs and cats in our communities receive the basic veterinary care essential to maintain good welfare, and to prevent high numbers of unwanted litters of dogs and cats that create a significant burden on communities.

Our first example, Project Kishka, explores a collaboration between FOUR PAWS Ukraine and Ukrainian communal enterprises, the municipal bodies originally tasked with dog population management in five cities. This project demonstrates how existing structures can be used to serve more than one species, as Project Kishka exclusively serves street cats, and explores the challenges and success factors of working with partners. Next, a new collaboration facilitated by the Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association, which aims to develop a network of social veterinary clinics throughout Ukraine, will be introduced.

Our last example will lay out a triparty agreement between the municipality, a private veterinary clinic and an international animal welfare organisation in Kosovo, aimed at reducing the stray population in a humane way by building small animal veterinary capacity. The initial focus was on the (subsidised) sterilisation of street dogs, but with the amount of responsible pet owners growing, the veterinary practice developed more through private clients. The model has proven so successful that it has now been replicated in 5 different cities in Kosovo.

In conclusion, limited resources require a multifaceted approach to building veterinary capacity. To ensure the implementation of a sustainable and humane dog and cat population management it is necessary to think creatively and strategically, harnessing the strengths of multiple partners, with different motivations and benefits, who are united in a long-term vision to guarantee impactful, lasting change.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT OF DOGS AND CATS IN THE SOCIAL VETERINARY MEDICINE: ZERO FOME PROJECT FOR DOGS AND CATS IN VULNERABILITY SITUATION

Presenting author: Mr. Vinicius Soares Santos¹

Coauthors: Renan Oliveira Vieira,² Sandra Vogel Seixas,² Rita de Cassia Maria Garcia²

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² Federal University of Paraná

Veterinary Medicine of the Collective is a specialty recognized in Brazil, addresses the promotion of health among individuals, families and communities within the framework of one welfare, integrating public health, shelter medicine, veterinary disaster medicine, veterinary forensic medicine and veterinary medicine for indigenous and traditional people. The specialty emerged from the humane and

sustainable population management of dogs and cats in urban areas, as these animals were traditionally captured and euthanized. This new field of study has introduced discussions in Brazil about the interactions among humans, animals and the environment, promoting harmonious relationships among them. The Zero Hunger Project, initiated by veterinary doctors and students in April 2021, was established as a nutritional support program for dogs and cats from families in social vulnerability, through a partnership with the PremieRPet Institute, which provided wet and dry food. The project initially targeted animals from socioeconomically vulnerable families in the city of Campo Magro (population of 30,000), in the metropolitan region of Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil. Families registered at the Social Assistance Reference Center (CRAS) with animals showing low body scores were selected. CRAS is a public entity for social assistance policy in Brazil that offers basic social protection services to families in vulnerable and social risk situations. In December 2021, the project expanded to provide food to dogs and cats rescued from abandonment and abuse, under the responsibility of a network of independent protectors in Curitiba and its metropolitan region. Since August 2022, a new group has been included in the project: animals from socially vulnerable families attended at the Collective Veterinary Medicine Center (CMVC) of the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR). At the same time, in Curitiba and the region, there was an increase in cases of sporotrichosis, a hyperendemic fungal and zoonotic disease, where dogs and cats diagnosed with the disease were treated by the project to offer nutritional support for their proper recovery. By April 2024, the Zero Hunger Project had delivered 30 tons of food, impacting about 3,100 animals. Nutritional quality was ensured for animals in vulnerable situations, as well as for patients diagnosed with serious diseases. The project could contribute to reducing animal abandonment and may provide better quality of life for animals and humans, as well as a healthier environment, since these three spheres are intrinsically linked. According to a survey answered by the protectors involved in the project, one factor that increased the chance of the animals being adopted was good nutrition. The project also carried out a population mapping of shelter dogs and cats through data provided by independent protectors, aiming to support new public health policies for one health and animal welfare.

ADDRESSING DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN GEORGIA: THE ACHIEVEMENTS & CHALLENGES OF WORKING WITH LOCAL & NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

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Mayhew recognises that for DPM initiatives to have long-term impact and provide a framework for sustainability, input and participation of national and local government is a crucial part of any project we deliver overseas.

The presentation walks through the experiences of Mayhew in Georgia from the initial request for assistance from the Tbilisi authorities in 2013 to date where Mayhew has become a go-to partner for more focussed national and local government initiatives to address dog population management issues in the country.

This will include the challenges in bringing together the various stakeholders involved: government departments and agencies, veterinary bodies, local residents and grassroots animal welfare groups. And how the need for practical assistance to devise ways of working which could address entrenched beliefs and legacy bureaucratic systems resistant to change to effect positive improvements was recognised in both the public perception of dog population management programmes and dog welfare.

We will look at what developments, improvements and achievements have been reached along the way.

Mayhew's team has worked with Tbilisi City Hall to deliver a baseline dog population survey in the capital Tbilisi, as well as working in four regions outside the capital to provide a greater understanding

of dog population dynamics and, having identified significant gaps in small animal welfare and clinical capacity, has delivered practical training opportunities in small animal care, reproductive surgery, anaesthesia and pain management to address the need of in country veterinary training, as well as supporting veterinary training establishments to improve veterinary curricula around small animals and their welfare.

And more recently how working more closely with international agencies including NDI, WOA, FAO and UNDP has led to increased interaction between all the stakeholders involved, including advising on the first drafts of legislation on breeding and per ownership in Georgia.

There remain significant challenges but there is now much more focussed attention about DPM at national and local government level in Georgia and more openness to work with NGOs and other agencies to find sustainable solutions. By on-going support and encouragement for those steps taken to manage the dog population in a humane and sustainable manner and working to steer away from more regressive practices and obstacles within the government system, the Georgian government can build DPM solutions into their community led services.