

**ICAM Humane Dog & Cat Population Management 5th International Conference - Virtual 2024 - Day 1**

Question	Answer	Answer Name
<b>Amit Chaudhari &amp; Keren Nazareth, HSI: Comprehensive Street Dog Population Management: Long-Term Impacts and Community Engagement in Vadodara and Dehradun, India</b>		
1 How many people conform the team to do the tracking every six months?	One trak required to be followed two dogs so having 12 tracks we generally allocate 6 staff members for 4 days or in limited people available we could reduce staff and it increase the number of days for data collection.	Amit Chaudhari
2 Who is there now in Vadodara doing TNVR? Did you leave a team in place to do this? If not, who is being trained?	Local NGOs and local government run this program as local government fund this program as per ABC rules 2001.	Amit Chaudhari
3 In dogs is gonad intact neutering (vasectomy/ hysterectomy) more efficient (as efficient/ less efficient) than gonad removal neutering?	This method is rarely used and hence require additional training but in terms of reproductive capacity of male dog both methods prevent further breeding capacity. The vasectomy does not remove hormones from male.	Amit Chaudhari
Thanks - sorry my question was not very precise. I had in mine example in cats population were gonad intact neutered cats enable better population management - as it limit new intruders to setup. But I presume that in dogs risk of aggression (related to hormones) is huge	Was this a tested in a project in the field? Or computer model? There are significant nuisance concerns and disease transmission risks from behaviour related to intact male cats. Were these considered in the model/observed in the field?	Ely Hiby
Initially modelled <a href="https://avmajournals.avma.org/view/journals/avma/243/4/avma.243.4.502.xml">https://avmajournals.avma.org/view/journals/avma/243/4/avma.243.4.502.xml</a>	Initially modelled...and then tested biologically? I would be concerned about the continued nuisance and disease transmission from hormone intact male behaviours.	Ely Hiby
Yes you're right . It will depend on what is the priority, and how acceptable it is to compromise cat's welfare. (Some NGO taking position i.e. Alley Cat Allies)	It also depends on whether the theory of territory protection by males that have undergone hormone sparing castration actually holds true in real life. Needs some testing for biological plausability.	Ely Hiby
4 who funds your programs? is your local government unit participative in these programs?	In India local government require to fund street dog population management program as per ABC rules 2001/2023. The funding is per dog sterilisation and vaccination and might not be enough for other activities like data collection, community education etc. But it should be enough for sterilisation program.	Amit Chaudhari
5 So, is the target in India 80% sterilization of street dogs? Cause, I wonder if it is healthy to have 100% sterilization. This was recently reported in Bhutan. Would that not affect Ecological sustainability, if all dogs are sterilized; ending dog populations with time?	We are still trying to understand what is the best number to leave a population with. I dont believe the idea is to end a population. We are finding that pet dogs, abandonment, relinquishment on to streets has a role in the street dog dynamics.	Keren Nazareth
6 How can we bring this program to South America? Specifically in Colombia. I am not aware of any programs of this kind in place here.	We can definitely discuss this with you in more details, if you would like to do this in Colombia as well. Happy to take our conversation forward. You could reach out to me at <a href="mailto:knazareth@hsi.org">knazareth@hsi.org</a> We do have some work being started in Costa Rica on community engagement in Tortuguero.	Keren Nazareth
7 do you have data of owned dogs? the street dogs you are referring are unowned?	We do have data on some owned dog populations, but we are also beginning to explore - the role that owned dogs - their abandonment on to streets also has on the street dog population. <a href="https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/10/1464">https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/10/1464</a>	Keren Nazareth
8 I am working with Kuhu Roy to try to restart a TNVR program in Vadodara, but are meeting with a lot of resistance. Who can we reach out to for help...	You can reach out to the Vadodara Municipal Corporation's Dr. Vijay Panchal	Keren Nazareth
9 I work with projects to minimize the impact of dogs and cats on wildlife in protected areas. Was this factor verified in the work presented?	Both these cities are largely urban and we have not really factored in wildlife impact for these. There is interactions between free-roaming cattle and urban wildlife, we do not have much data on this exactly. <a href="https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/10/1464">https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/14/10/1464</a>	Keren Nazareth
10 Great presentation! I'm curious if the volunteers get incentives?	There is no financial incentive. We initially work with volunteers who are already involved in local animal work on their own. The incentives are - training and capacity building programs. Supporting them with vaccinating and sterilizing dogs in their areas, and supporting with peaceful conflict resolution if they have issues in their neighbourhoods. The volunteers are facilitated at our events and we highlight their contributions in different mediums.	Keren Nazareth
11 What is the cost-effective and safe method of sterilization? Which sex are the best to be sterilized? Thank you	I am providing the email id of our Director, Street Dog program, Dr. Piyush Patel <a href="mailto:ppatel@hsi.org">ppatel@hsi.org</a> who can provide you details of our sterilization and vaccination projects. Our surgeons are trained to do surgery based on our protocols.	Keren Nazareth
@Abdullahi - for me, although we want to sterilize both males and female dogs to prevent other health risks too, I am of the opinion that neutering the males is less invasive, possible cheaper and a male can impregnate multiple females in a short period, where the female can only have one litter at a time.	I am in opinion that Female dogs should be prioritise over male. Please refer to several model and last time ICAM presentation.	Amit Chaudhari
12 how do we access the directory?	Mrs. Roy has a copy - you can otherwise email <a href="mailto:pdholakia@hsi.org">pdholakia@hsi.org</a> who is our lead in Vadodara.	Keren Nazareth
13 Who undertakes the community engagement? What are their professional backgrounds? What type of people do we need to recruit and employ if starting community engagement?	Our community engagement teams are mostly people who have worked on community mobilization or social work. Though we do have some members who are from journalism, IT etc. We are looking for people who are good in their communication with communities, sensitive in their approach and are keen on animal welfare with a balanced approach. We do have onground training and refresher training. I am happy to share more - <a href="mailto:knazareth@hsi.org">knazareth@hsi.org</a>	Keren Nazareth
14 How can Liberia harness opportunities to crack and understand the Stray dog Population.	We did one study in Liberia, can you please write and email to me so that I can share that report with you. I saw hardly any street dogs in Liberia.	Amit Chaudhari
<b>Sanja Bianculli, Dogs Trust Bosnia: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Multi-stakeholder engagement progressing humane dog population management – a 10-year impact</b>		
1 what is the best way to get Organizations like dog trust to work in a country? is governmental approval is needed?	The legal part of any organisation operating is different in different countries. Legal advice here is important to make sure the registration is compliant with the law. In Bosnia, we were registered as a representative office, and a few years ago as a Foundation (Dogs Trust Worldwide Foundation Bosnia).	Sanja Bianculli
2 Sanja, does your neutering training program include flank OVH for females?	Yes, it not only prevents further reproduction, but also significantly reduces the incidence of various tumours related to reproductive system of the dog, thus improving the welfare of the dogs.	Sanja Bianculli
3 Hi. What exactly you mean by carrot and stick approach. What type of sticks did you use??	I hope my answer live was clear enough. If not, please do ask anything that might be confusing.	Sanja Bianculli
4 funding to employ these programs is always a question. How do you find your programs?	We are lucky to be a part of Dogs Trust and to get their help in funding.	Sanja Bianculli
5 do you agree that euthanasia is an important tool, too?	It is naturally a tool, but only in the case if the dog is ill and not treatable, if suffering, or if the behaviour is beyond possible and efficient correction. We should approach it carefully as it can be easily abused. There should be an ethical committee for tis, as vets can only evaluate the health side, not the behaviour. Sometimes the dog is aggressive due to an illness, other times it is how it was treated in the past. It would not be by any means the main method of dog population management.	Sanja Bianculli
6 Turkey is currently trying to pass a kill-law. How would we be able to reach Dogstrust to do	There are so many reasons why the kill clause is not efficient in dog population management, such as investing in the	Sanja Bianculli
7 Sanja - you mentioned microchipping and tagging dogs prior to return. Can you please elaborate on the tagging method	The ear tag is used for stray dogs along with the chip to make sure the community knows the dog has been neutered and vaccinated, and usually these dogs show friendly behaviour. It is also important for measuring/counting.	Sanja Bianculli
Sanja - thank you. Is the tag you use similar to that shown on the Mayhew Georgia presentation (circular, flat, perhaps 3cm in diameter)?	Yes, it is rectangular and administered under anaesthesia and with all medical protocols, sterilised and clean. Mostly the tag has set before the dog is even returned to the street. Best wishes :)	Sanja Bianculli
10 Are those minimum standards for shelters base of the american ones? is it possible to get access to them?	The minimum standards are prescribed by the animal welfare legislation, and it ensures the welfare of the dogs. It is not perfect, but if everyone followed it and registered, the dog welfare would be protected. However, we argue that only smaller and transitional shelters are effective, while the mass shelters are of sustainable, financially and especially in terms of the welfare. You can find the state animal welfare legislation of Bosnia online, and on our page there is much about it on the English version: <a href="http://www.dogstrust.ba">www.dogstrust.ba</a>	Sanja Bianculli
11 bureaucracy is a great component in the hindrance of proper implementation of programs. How do you address this?	What we do is make sure we get a form of agreement with the local authorities which defines our work, meaning we have a green light by the institutions. We definitely make sure we are always aligned with the law.	Sanja Bianculli
12 what about the dogs that were already in shelters with no welfare standards or where as you mentioned there were shortage of staff, I am asking as we are facing a similar situation	I think inspections must be asked and lobbied to do their jobs and make sure the shelters are registered and the welfare standards met. Sadly, many think the dog is saved if he is no longer in the community, and that is not true. For the dog welfare, it is sometimes better to stay in the community than to shove them into a small confined space with poor conditions. This can ruin dogs' health and behaviour :)	Sanja Bianculli
13 How dangerous are the ear tags for injuring the dogs' ears, especially during fights or after infections?	I would like a vet to answer this, but as someone who has been working with vets on this, I learned that the risk is minor, vs. the benefits. In rare cases, there could be an infection of the piercing, but mostly as frequent as when we pierce our ears. If the dogs in the community are monitored, and this happens, the dog can be provided with the medication and help.	Sanja Bianculli
14 Thank you very much for your great presentation! How matching dogs and owners would work in a self-rehoming system, please?	If you mean individuals rehoming dogs, the matching is the same as in a fostering scheme, but you need help from a dog behaviour expert and your notes about the dog's needs, likes/dislikes. You can write to us and we will send you the translated application we use as a first screening: <a href="mailto:office@dogstrust.ba">office@dogstrust.ba</a>	Sanja Bianculli
15 I can understand your statement regarding ineffective culling and carrying capacity. However, please be aware that the carrying capacity is determined by food resources. If you keep encouraging people to provide food and water, the dog population sustains in a very high-density.	This is not true if other measures are implemented, such as CNVR, adopting, education and awareness raising. Dogs who live in the community because there is no capacity (proper and humane conditions) in shelters, under condition that they are healthy, vaccinated, neutered and socialised, need to have supervision, food and water, which is best organised among the dog lovers, formal and informal groups. If there is a problem of stray dogs, having such dogs in the community is a form of protection from the new dogs who may come, as dogs are territorial and there healthy and neutered dogs will protect the territory they live. On the other hand, waste management is an important measure so dogs do not feed from the containers.	Sanja Bianculli
<b>Caroline Yates &amp; Ana Metskhvarishvili, Mayhew Georgia: Addressing Dog Population Management Issues in Georgia: The achievements &amp; challenges of working with local &amp; national stakeholders</b>		
1 did you return the dogs in the already established shelters by the municipalities or did you keep them there? what is the best way ?	The roaming dogs in the communities where we work are released back to their territories - neutered, vaccinated and with an ear tag. Some of these dogs have feeders and locals you keep an eye on them. Some are in foster care whilst looking for adoption. We don't advocate returning them to a municipal shelter due to the risk of disease and potential poor standards of care.	Caroline Yates
2 How dangerous are the ear tags for injuring the dogs' ears, especially during fights or after infections?	We do sometimes see dogs with infected ear tags and even cases that it came off by some cause - like getting it on something, however if we outweigh different cases and nothing is even completely good or bad - you just have to go with the best option. For georgia ear tags are the best option, reason number 1, a lot of Caucasian shepherd mixes have chopped ears unfortunately, so if we just cut the ear off and used that option of marking them we would get confused. reason 2, the tags have specific number and it is possible to register them and track their date of TNVR process, differentiate which organization did it and it helps us to visibly see which ones are done and are not, which is also important part when doing surveys. Mayhew Georgia's process to put in an ear tage is part of the surgery process. The ear is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and shaved before placing the ear tag. Once in the eartag is again applied with antiseptic.	Ana Metskhvarishvili
3 @Caroline- Could you please explain more on Animals Monitoring Agency (is that a government body)? How does it work and in which capacity? Thank you	The Animals Monitoring Agency is a local government agency in Tbilisi - they are responsible for all animals related issues in the city and run the Municipal Dog & Cat Shelter. They employ staff at the shelter and also crews of dog catchers and officers who respond to animal matters in the community - dogs, cats in trees, abandoned horses, etc. etc.	Caroline Yates

4	I am not familiar with the cultural nuances in Georgia... what is the perception of people, particularly males, re: sterilizing animals? Specifically male dogs and cats. Is there a perception that they'll "lose their masculinity"? This does happen sometimes in Latin America, though that's shifting thankfully.	Yes, men are more sensitive towards males mostly. In the regions you do see people sympathizing with females as well not to take motherhood away and comments like that but changes after education and explanation.	Ana Metskharishvili
5	Pls. what is the rationale behind not neutering an animal unless it has been given at least one shot of vaccine? Thank you very much for the presentation.	The question is a bit unclear for me and I will answer, if its not covering it please do feel free to ask more questions: When you do TVNR (Trap, Neuter, Vaccine, Release) that is sometimes the only opportunity to get your hands on specific animal - so automatically you need to vaccinate them to prevent the diseases. If you compare veterinary medicine where the vaccines are done few times in some cases to have high titer and rate for it to work, then shelter medicine is a bit different - one shot is still much better than no shot at all. When we are working on DPM programmes we carry out vaccination of rabies & a complex vaccination against common canine infectious disease, surgery and parasite control all in the same day.	Ana Metskharishvili
6	Can you explain a bit more about the counting of the dogs. How it was done?	We have used both the ICAM app TALEA for counting dogs in the regions and used the WVS app for the survey in Tbilisi. These are easily downloadable onto a mobile phone. So using these mobile apps teams/vois go out at a certain time of day and count the dogs they see in a targeted area. The app regards sex, age, body condition, signs of ownership etc. This data is loaded up to a database and gives you data on density and breakdown of dogs in an area providing info on which to base your strategy or intervention. The survey in Tbilisi took about 2.5 months with Mayhew personnel & volunteers and also teams from Animals Monitoring Agency. In the regions the numbers are much smaller so a survey can be done in one day.	Caroline Yates
7	About street dog vaccination was any pilot project to test ORV (oral vaccination) - through hand distribution ... something similar that is done with wildlife (foxes) in process of ORV uptake monitoring ?	I don't think I am an expert to be answering this as I lack information, however can share my opinion - in Georgia at least we need to understand if they have been vaccinated or not and visible see it - as people generally react to them in calmer way and if they do have a case of being bitten, then they feel a bit more safe that the dog has been vaccinated at least once, which is safer than no vaccine at all. another important part - oral vaccine doesn't guarantee that it wasn't eaten by one dog and the others had it as well, simply the coverage of it is hard to trace and the effectivity of it is super difficult to track. And just to add that we don't do a separate rabies vax programme in Georgia - the vaccination is part of our TVNR release programmes so the dogs are coming in for surgery anyway.	Ana Metskharishvili
8	How many of those animals enter the shelters already spayed/neutered? How many are identified and registered?	Presently the Municipal Shelter in Tbilisi which has a capacity of about 150 dogs - most of the dogs held at the shelter are lost/abandoned owned dogs which are not neutered or registered. The shelter posts all these arrivals on their FB page and some owners do come and collect and then they are obliged to register and microchip them. Roaming dogs with tags are released unless they are on rabies watch or deemed "aggressive" in which case they are kept at the shelter for at least 10 days.	Caroline Yates
9	Thank you so much for organizing such like interesting and informative webinars.  How can we get such a program in Africa, specifically, Ethiopian we looking for support and funding to address achallengeful dog population management issues.	At the moment Mayhew works in Georgia and Afghanistan, but there are other international charities working in Africa.	
<b>Katja Guenther &amp; Kristen Hassen, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University: Understanding and Challenging the Long-Term Impact of the Pound Model on Animal Sheltering in the United States</b>			
1	Do you think humane organizations in the US has focused their actions more in the problem and has left behind the need to get involve in activities like lobby in congress to pass legislation that tackle sources of dogs and cats that end up in shelters like breeders or abandonment?	live answered	
2	What is your opinion regarding making obligatory having sterilized owned dogs and cats ?	Research conducted in the US has consistently shown that mandatory sterilization laws (also called spay/neuter laws) are not effective and actually often increase shelter intakes. The way these laws tend to be written in the US is so that they involve a penalty of some kind if a guardian does not sterilize their animal by a certain age. That penalty may come in the form of a very high cost to license the animal, or as a direct fine. When faced with the financial penalty, one way to avoid paying is to surrender the animal to the shelter--and that is what many guardians ultimately have to do if they can't afford the surgery OR the penalty. A more promising alternative appears to be the widespread availability of low-cost and free spay/neuter services. -Katja	
4	Thanks, Ely, for sharing US's experience regarding dog population management. Let me ask you one question, could you share us about the legal framework experience of USA regarding the dog population management (specially the registration and certification of pets including free roaming and/or feral dogs)?	You might want to repost this question with @Kristen and @Katja for them to answer. I am not an expert in US legislation. I believe the legislation you describe is state not national.	Ely Hiby
5	I thought I heard that 50% of all intake in US shelters are stray dogs...that is a very interesting statistic	That's true! Our speakers on Thursday - Jennifer and Heather from HASS will be talking about this more - including how we can improve reuniting rates to get those strays home.	
6	Katja & Kristen, How do you feel the impact of huge numbers of 'rescue' dogs being imported into the US is affecting the situation in the US? There are so many groups and organisations in other countries doing this - some are well meaning and legit but others are operating as virtual businesses, and many do not have follow up practices or support once the animals are in the US.	I am not aware of any research on this topic, but my impression from Los Angeles (where there is a near-constant flow of animals from Mexico, China, Korea, and sometimes other countries) is that the volume of international animals is not a major contributor to problems in shelters. During the pandemic, I read and heard a number of horror stories involving international dog adoptions, and it's unfortunate that people were swindled (i.e., paid for animals who never arrived). I hope such adopters aren't discouraged and looked to local shelters to adopt. -Katja	
<b>John Peaveler, Humane Innovations, Capture Equipment and Methods for Dog Population Management Programs</b>			
1	Do you offer workshops on how to catch these animals in Asia?	I work freelance, so I'm available anywhere!	John Peaveler
3	@John in some countries none or very few of these tools are available. Any tips on how /where to get them in an affordable way?	We are out of time, but please feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:john@humaneinnovations.com">john@humaneinnovations.com</a>	John Peaveler