

**ICAM Humane Dog & Cat Population Management 5th International Conference - Virtual 2024 - Day 5: Human behaviour measurement and change June 21st**

	Question	Answer	Answerer Name
<b>Ala Izydorczyk, Soi Dog Foundation: Bangkok CNVR Programme – KAP Survey 2023 analysis</b>			
1	What is the minimal age Soi Dogs sterilized animals in the CNVR program?	Ala answered this live. We use a weight threshold for sterilisation: 2kg for dogs and 1kg for cats. Equates to around 10-12 weeks of age in practice.	Elly Hiby
2	Thnak you for answering. I am a big advocate of early sterilization but I have found big resistant in my country Colombia. Few Vets do it. Its great to have a good example such the CNVR program in Bangkok, city that is very similar in many ways to Bogotá	Hi: There is a presentation about cat early age neutering from Rae and a survey of vets opinions of early age by lvet in Bulgaria - both are on our conference webpage. There is also a report link on the Day 3 section about evidence for cat early neutering - hope these will be useful.	Elly Hiby
3	Is this study published (Bangkok study) ? I would like to replicate it in rural Kenya, is there a link to the published article	Publication on the impact of CNVR on dog numbers in Bangkok <a href="https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13111726">https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13111726</a> - Ala and I are co-authors on this paper	Elly Hiby
		<a href="https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/13/11/1726">https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/13/11/1726</a> This is the whole impact assessment (2016-2022) We will publish the KAP data soon.	Ala Izydorczyk
4	Has this study been published? If so, please share the link to the publication.	Not yet ... was just talking to Elly today that we should so we will soon! Will share then	Ala Izydorczyk
5	Did the respondents say why they were not happy with the number of free-roaming dogs. e.g., annoyed or concerned about their welfare? Thank you :)	13.5% (426) households reported being annoyed or troubled by a dog or dogs in their neighbourhood within the previous month. The top three types of annoyance or trouble were noise (55%), contamination with pee and poo (51%) and making a mess of garbage (46%).	Elly Hiby
6	The sterilization will be conducted even if dogs are pregnant? Is there any cultural conflict about it?	Yes SDF does abortions as a standard, it has been a struggle to convince people in the past, but people see the benefits over time and we rarely have problems with this anymore.	Ala Izydorczyk
7	How much attention do the Thai government pay to these important findings? Do you think the results could help shape policy in the future?	Hi: Ala answered this live, so just to repeat: They held a conference in Bangkok earlier this year, with 100+ participants include many government representatives. So they have seen these results. Ala reported an improvement in government engagement, but agreed there was more to be done!	Elly Hiby
8	Thank you for the great presentation. Does Soi dog release unowned dogs same day as surgery? Do most countries release same day? Are there post surgery problems and is there any normal expected %? Does this increase in the rainy season or on beach areas? Thank you.	Yes we do same day release (we use mid-line spay, very small incision, intradermal sutures). We do use LA antibiotics (72h cover) and nsaid on first day. We always make sure the local people, carers, feeders, keep an eye on and let us know if any issues. If dogs had abortion done, pyometra or other complications will stay for care with us for 3-5 days. Complications should not be much, approx 10-20 dogs per 1000 is normal (these will need extra care - provide antibiotics etc to carers). Rainy season can affect yes, hence the LA antibiotics.	Ala Izydorczyk
9	Do you have a sample of the questionnaires available?	Hi, I worked with Ala on this KAP survey - I'll try to share the questionnaire on the chat as a pdf	Elly Hiby
10	I have to ask about funding for the program as well as the personnel conducting this project?	Dogs Trust Worldwide fund 50%, Soi Dog 50%. All staff are Soi Dog staff, all Thai. Government support venues to hold the mobile clinics, PR/ advertising & they endorse the project which makes it easier to work in difficult areas.	Ala Izydorczyk
11	Hi, Ala! what two dog diseases have been major challenge to your shelter and how did you deal with it?	In the shelter touch wood we never had an outbreak as we vaccinate all dogs annually. We sometimes have distemper issues - with new dogs bringing into hospital. Parvo too sometimes in dogs, these sick animals must be isolated and in-contact dogs quarantined.	Ala Izydorczyk
12	Are unowned young puppies and kittens returned to the street after sterilisation or are these owned? Is there a good survival rate after return.	Yes they are all returned, usually the puppies and kittens come with Mom, so no problem to send them back - there is often a feeder or carer too. IF we find dumped/ abandoned kittens or puppies they will stay with us for rehoming.	Ala Izydorczyk
13	Does Bangkok have a local government veterinary department?	Yes there is a Veterinary Council but they are not very active; they do give out vet licences and accredit the Thai vet universities (currently 11)	Ala Izydorczyk
14	Is there a standar features of the mobile clinics you use at the CNVR programs that can be share?	No sure what you mean? Feel free to email me <a href="mailto:ala@soidog.org">ala@soidog.org</a> if you'd like to speak more about CNVR mobile clinics	Ala Izydorczyk

<b>Gemma Ma, RSPCA NSW: Applying a human behaviour change approach to unowned cat management</b>			
1	Is tnr legal in all of australia? I've read a few articles about it but don't know how's the current situation. Thanks!	<p>live answered.</p> <p>The legislation varies between states in Australia but yes, TNR is generally considered illegal. In NSW, releasing a cat who does not have an owner can be considered "abandonment", which is an offense under our animal welfare legislation. To be able to desex cats through our programs they must have an owner. Hence a big part of our programs targeting populations of unowned or semi-owned cats is to engage with the semi-owners (usually there are several providing varying degrees of care to the same cat) and decide who will be the cat's official owner going forward. If we remove the costs of desexing, microchipping and registering the cat/s, and if we can assist with trapping and transporting the cats to and from the vet, many (even most) semi-owners will agree to becoming the cat's official owner. This is where the human behaviour change happens! We work very closely with rescue organisations and local volunteers to find these cats permanent homes, and do our best to keep the cats in situ wherever possible, especially the cats who are unsocialised.</p> <p>NB Any changes to the legislation in NSW that requires cats to be contained to their owner's property will create a huge barrier to us doing this important work. Many of these cats cannot be humanely contained, and many of their semi-owners would be unable to keep them contained even if their temperament allowed (e.g. living in housing that does not allow pets).</p>	Gemma Ma
2	If as Humans we introduce them into a habitat, wouldn't it be easier to invest in more invasive sterilization and education programs, fines, than resorting to a humane sacrifice? I clarify	We agree! Sterilisation, responsible ownership education and other services are a better way to manage these populations than culling. Unfortunately the right way is not always seen as the easiest - this is our advocacy challenge! The presentations this week are evidence that this humane approach is possible :-)	Elly Hiby
3	What responsibilities would identifying as an owner entail for a semi-owner of a cat? Specifically, would they be expected to have the cat microchipped under their name? Additionally, is there any resistance from people regarding this requirement?	[Live answered] To expand on this answer: At a practical level, most semi-owners will continue to provide the same level of care for the cat after they become their "owner" as they were providing before. In NSW, owned cats are required to be microchipped and registered, but are allowed to roam unrestricted. The registration is the main barrier because it is a financial cost (~\$70-\$150 AUD). Most semi-owners we work with are very happy to take on responsibility for the cats if desexing and microchipping is provided for free. In some communities, where there is a fear of enforcement and over-policing (e.g. First Nations communities, where people have been incarcerated for failing to register dogs), there is greater reluctance to microchip, even though most people are very prepared to continue to care for the cats and are happy for them to be desexed. Hence, we encourage microchipping at the time of desexing, but leave this optional where it would be another barrier.	Gemma Ma
4	In places where culling is applied as a management strategy, did you observe a faster recovery of the cat population in the sectors where elimination was applied? Was the vacuum effect observed?	I'm not aware of "culling" being used as a deliberate management strategy for cats in Australia - at least not officially, or beyond individual multi-cat sites. Cat management is the responsibility of local governments (councils) in Australia, but their role under the legislation is left open to interpretation. Hence many councils do not undertake any cat management activities and even refuse to accept cats surrendered by the public. Some councils will trap and euthanise unsocialised cats when they receive complaints from their constituents. This type of low-intensity culling has been conducted in some areas for decades with no appreciable reduction in the cat populations in the area.	Gemma Ma
5	Do you have a rationale, why you would want people to become/acknowledge full ownership instead of becoming caretakers of community cats? If I think about the example of Shirley(?), she might not be able to fulfill ownership requirements, ie. have the resources to fully care for more animals? To put it less simply, what is your reason to favor ownership over community approaches?	<p>Great question. At RSPCA NSW we believe every cat deserves a safe and permanent home and someone to take care of them. Free-roaming cats are at significant risk of harm, especially from road traffic accidents, but also from dog attacks, infectious diseases, tick paralysis, and deliberate cruelty. In Australia, we also have wildlife who are vulnerable to cat predation - cats are an important invasive predator here. Hence we do not want to normalise populations of unowned cats.</p> <p>I also agree putting more caring responsibility onto semi-owners like Shirley and David is highly problematic. Ideally, we ensure services are in place to intervene early to find the cat an appropriate permanent home. We want to do this when that one stray cat shows up not after that one cat has become 50 cats.</p> <p>We are also forced to use an "ownership" approach in Australia, or at least in NSW, because releasing a cat without an owner can be considered an offense under our animal welfare legislation.</p>	Gemma Ma
6	Are there any community issues with wildlife, bird hunting etc ?	Yes, in Australia we have many native mammal, bird and reptile species that are vulnerable to cat predation.	Gemma Ma

7	What is important for contacting semi-owner? Sometimes I faced difficulty in contacting them because they are socially isolated and not interested the project by local government	Trust! And time. We start by going door-to-door. We emphasise that we are here to help the cats, and help the people who care about them. We're not there to take the cats away, we're not there to get anyone in trouble. Informed consent is really important - we make sure everyone is on board before doing anything with the cats. Our programs usually start slowly and build momentum over time as word spreads that we do what we say and don't take the cats away. We also work very closely with local cat rescue organisations, local vets and the local council rangers who often have existing relationships with local semi-owners. These existing relationships might not always be positive, especially in areas where culling/enforcement approaches have been used previously, but they can help point you in the right direction.	Gemma Ma
8	Also do you have population data for the cats? Having said that great work I. Changing attitude	In some areas we have been estimating cat populations using heat and motion detection cameras and transect drives. In other areas we have high resolution population data on individual multi-cat sites across a suburb. This data is difficult and expensive to obtain so we can't afford to do it everywhere so for the most part we rely on other indicators e.g. council pound intake, RSPCA shelter intake.	Gemma Ma
<b>Casey Quimby &amp; Jessica Hoopes, Animals Fiji: Who let the dogs out? Unleashing Solutions: Addressing Human Contributions to Fiji's Free-Roaming Dog</b>			
2	Do you see high cases of TVT in intact dogs in Fiji? We do in Colombia, mainly on the coastal areas, so I wonder if it's similar in Fiji.	Yes! We have a high rate of TVT cases. A lot of which are in advance stages.	Casey Quimby
3	Thanks for answering Casey. Do you have the medications needed to treat each TVT case? Or how do you handle them?	Answering on behalf of Casey here - our staff have used intravenous vincristine for the treatment of TVT in dogs, with good success after 6-8 treatments. This is usually focused on owned dogs, but if the shelter has the capacity to accommodate a dog for the duration of the treatment period we have also treated TVT in our shelter intakes. While there is suggestion that TVT can resolve spontaneously without treatment, I can't say I have ever seen it personally, so in cases where dogs cannot be treated, euthanasia may be recommended. I will note that unlike other areas, TVT has a fairly high proportion of TVT that is extra-gential and also cases that are metastatic, which is quite unusual.	Jessica Hoopes
4	When you conduct these surveys, do you have to be affiliated or get permission from the Fiji Bureau of Stats? Or do you share the results with them after?	We had to get Ethics Approval from Ministry of Health, which took 18months due to them not quite understanding that our study took into consideration the human aspect. We send updates bi-annually.	Casey Quimby
5	are foreign breed dogs given preference over indigenous fiji dogs by pet owners when they go for adoption?	There is definitely a mindset that is associated with a preference in some people for "purebred dogs" - particularly German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks and small breed dogs. And as a result these breeds can sell for thousands of dollars. People also often advertise dogs as being "purebred" or mixed breed "German shepherd x Doberman", on social media marketplaces. Given the popularity and perceived value of these dogs, they rarely end up in shelters for adoption.	Jessica Hoopes
6	How many animals do you care for in your shelter ? And how long do you keep them at the shelter ?	Up until 2016 our capacity for care was up to 130 or so. We made the conscious decision to reduce the shelter capacity over time down to around 40 to ensure the resources used for shelter previously could be re-allocated for prevention - sterilization / outreach to prevent animals before coming into shelter. That has turned into DPM including sterilization. We operate a Adoption Guaranteed shelter. That means once an animal is in shelter he/she stays until they get adopted. But that means we have to be upfront and honest with community members surrendering. If we are at capacity, we advise as such and then tell them they have options to go on waiting list, try another shelter, and then last resort humanely euthanize.	Casey Quimby
7	On the responses on Dog Ownership Responsibilities: Do you think that the high agreement on what owners could be due to social desirability bias? Or do you see the reason for the discrepancies between perceived responsibilities and actual ownership behaviour more in the barriers reported?	Great question. It could be due to social desirability bias, which could be contributed to by globalization. So they have an ideal of the type of care the dogs should have vs the practical barriers - like time constraints, financial limitation, and lack of resources for their family generally.	Casey Quimby
8	Thanks for the presentation, have you encountered roaming/stray dog hunting on wildlife in Fiji? Is there any electronic device can be used for traceability purpose in case of stray dog wildlife conflict?	live answered	Manuela Rowlings
9	Thank you for the great talk!! Sorry if I missed it, but did you manage to identify why this dissociation was so common? Thank you very much	Human apathy and lack of resources is the simple answer. But we need to remove barriers as best we can and to have success we need resources ourselves to remove these.	Casey Quimby
10	Is it that people don't really have the resources to deworm, vaccinate and de-flea their dogs/cats or it's just pure negligence?	That's a hard question to answer - as I think it is multifaceted. Cost would definitely be a barrier for some people, and in some parts of the country physical access may also be a challenge. But I mirror Casey's sentiments that there are a number of behavioural barriers to the administration of preventative treatments (apathy, etc). These results are still very new, and have definitely flagged that we have a lot more work to do to really understand the barriers (real or perceived) people living in Fiji face to implementing responsible pet ownership practices.	Jessica Hoopes

11	Please, i will like to have Jessica's slides to help me carried out intervention in a community	All the presentations from today will be uploaded onto our webpage at the end of the event today - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ICAMconf2024">https://tinyurl.com/ICAMconf2024</a> - you'll see day 1, 2, 3 and 4 are already there.	Elly Hiby
12	Is affordability not a big issue there	Affordability is 100% an issue, but we have offered payment in means of nominal amounts (ie. \$1) or payment in bananas, papayas, etc. The point is to ensure the services recieved are recongized to be of value by trading.	Casey Quimby
13	Do you mind sharing your survey? i would like to carry out one here in Zambia	Greetings - we are just about to try and publish this data, at which point the survey will be publicly available. In the meantime - you can feel free to get in touch with us directly and we can talk to you about how we approached survey development. I think its really important to tailor the survey to the local context, and we have done several iterations of ours to get it to where it is now (including recently adding that question on dog feeding).	Jessica Hoopes
<b>Maria Emilia Calero Cruz, Cumbay Cuidado Animal: Control of Companion Animal Overpopulation and Preventive Medicine under the One Health Approach:</b>			
1	what are your learnings or insights during the implementation of this project.	1. we've learned that not all the animals would be carried inside their houses, but they could get good care anyways. 2. We need to improve self steem, education and overall economic situation in the peolpe to improve animal care. 3. we can't stop working because all this work would be nothing if there are new animals that are not neutered and if we stop talking and educating about this	Emilia Calero
2	Emilia - how did you approach those int'l organizattions, such as HSI Int'l? Did you already have a relationship with them?	We work with Terranimal, a organization who has the contact with this organizations. With them we present the pryect and ocasionaly get some budget. I wet to Animal Care expo in 2017 and get the contact of some people working in Latino américa so i always send the proyect traying to find sponsors.	Emilia Calero
3	How do you determine the cost for care? Do people self disclose?	live answered, We do a really close work with the people in the neighborhood so we know them very well. If it is a person we don't know we maike and apointment and visit the house.	Emilia Calero
4	I love that system! We do something similar in our clinic in Indonesia. 3 tier system: 1. Strays get free treatment 2. animals owned by low income locals who agree to sterilise get costprice (and spay/neuter for free if needed) 3. people who do not want to sterilise their cats and westerners/business owners pay a normal price for their pets	That is a very good way to survive economically. As a private organization, with not constant support from other organizations we need to pay bills every month, we don't want to be dependent of sponsors. We also think that it's a way to educate the importance of paying the services you recieve.	Emilia Calero
5	As to the survey: how many questions? Did you use a ready-made questionnaire or did you build your own?	Terranimal had previously a survey we used that one and modified it according to our neighborhood necesities. If you want we could send it to you	Emilia Calero
6	What's your org's Instagram acct?	cumbaycuidadoanimal in instagram and facebook	Emilia Calero
7	Thank you very much for the great talk and amazing project! Do you have any behaviour support to dogs and if not, do you see any need? Thank you very much	We don't have but will realy help the familys with problems we found in their houses	Emilia Calero
<b>Roshni Ladny &amp; Deborah Wilson, Florida Gulf Coast University and The European Link Coalition: "Violence Against Animals as Violence Against Children":</b>			
1	Curious if you're familiar with the work being done in Canada on the violence link by Humane Canada. <a href="https://humanecanada.ca/en/sector-professionals/violence-link-professionals">https://humanecanada.ca/en/sector-professionals/violence-link-professionals</a>	Thanks for sharing this! This looks like a wonderful Canadian counterpart to The Link in the U.S which we have here. The ultimate goal would be for every country to have such a "Link" organization! We will check out Canada's work in this domain. Again, thank you very much for sharing!	Roshni Ladny
3	Thank you for your important presentation, Debbie and Roshni. It seems as though GC26 could be a powerful tool in international advocacy against cruel "catch and kill" stray control methods, in favour of humane DPM. Do you think this advocacy should be prioritised by animal protection organisations promoting humane DPM methods (making countries take action and give support for humane approaches)? And given ICAM's international overview and research methodology, could/should they consider a survey of countries across the world where children are witnessing this violence, and therefore need to be be targeted in the context of the UN convention on the rights of the child?	live answered	Roshni Ladny

4	Are you aware of any educational materials that use this link to prevent violence against humans and animals. Given that the former might be more widely accepted, eg. as projects for schools, than if the material was only directed on animal protection?	Thanks for your question!The educational tools regarding link between committing animal cruelty and violence against humans is used in police training for certain police departments and in some ways is used in select schools, via the form of humane education programs. However, these programs are still very limited. This is a very new area in terms of childhood exposure to animal cruelty being linked to violence. Most of the education has been focused on examining the link between committing animal cruelty and subsequent violence as opposed to witnessing it and the negative psychological consequences. Ideally we want to create such programs in schools, etc across the globe!	Roshni Ladny
5	Is animal Cruelty linked to anger issues m?	Most certainly!!	Roshni Ladny
6	Will the Council of Europe now be challenged about the non-enforcement of its 'legally binding' Convention 125 for the Protection of Pet Animals which includes an obligation to ' Reduce the unplanned breeding of dogs and cats by promoting the neutering of these animals '. A practice which in addition to being compliant with Council of Europe Convention 125 would also be compliant & supportive of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child where human rights of children now include being protected from 'violence inflicted against animals' . Currently inhumane practices are enacted by many authorities against homeless animals. These are now non-compliant with a 'legally binding' UN Human Rights Charter AND the 'legally binding' Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals in countries where this agreement has been ratified.	I hope everyone has been able to read through this and consider what we can all do! This comment will be available on the ICAM webpage for all to continue to think about!	Roshni Ladny
7	what is your opinion on exposure of children on fish being caught on a hook, scales removed, prepared to be cooked as fresh caught fish?	Excellent question! I hope I was able to at least "touch" on the answer.	Roshni Ladny
8	How do you define violence to animals? Would something like neglect (e.g., poor living conditions for animals in shelters) be included in this, or would it solely be restricted to physical violence to animals (like beatings, cullings, etc.)?	live answered	Deborah Jane Wilson
9	Is there any research on the effects of the meat industry, factory farming and the cruelty to animals involved and how children view animals and their diets?	There is some limited research on the impact of slaughter house workers and those who work in the dog and cat meat industry	Deborah Jane Wilson
<b>All speakers</b>			
1	question for all speakers - what are some successful ways/advocacy strategies you have employed to engage government authorities and urged to them to offer support and take some ownership of the issue?	Hi, you might want to watch the ICAM presentation from day 3 that gives several good advocacy handles. here is the link to the recording on our page <a href="https://www.icam-coalition.org/conferences/international-conference-dog-cat-population-management-2024/#1710254512210-91adbea6-4c60">https://www.icam-coalition.org/conferences/international-conference-dog-cat-population-management-2024/#1710254512210-91adbea6-4c60</a> Ala and her colleagues at SDF and Dogs Trust have invested a lot in M&E - this gives you something to show governments your impact. Ala mentioned their conference earlier this year - they invited government representatives to the event - to share their work and hear the M&E results. It was a great event. Please also check Day 3 of this conference - Patrick and Gisela in particular addressed this question - you can see their presentations on the webpage - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ICAMconf2024">https://tinyurl.com/ICAMconf2024</a>	Manuela Rowlings  Elly Hiby
2	I guess that this question can be asked of everyone given that it has a global remit applicable to 196 nations. Would engagement of the UN Development Program be invited to provide significant support for CNVR programs globally, given that that this would be supportive of another UN entity, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child which has called upon authorities to introduce humane homeless animal management programs. UNDP, Dogs Trust & IFAW had previously unified with such a program in Bosnia but this was before the UN Committee provided a 'binding' Human Rights rationale for the introduction of such programs.	Funding for CNVR is always welcome, and much needed, as CNVR is a long term commitment not a one off project. Does the UN Development Program provide funding to NGOs? Or to governments? This needs clarification, but we in Thailand can definitely try to get the Thai govt onboard as we would like them to do the "maintenance" rounds of CNVR, to keep the dog population stable & rabies vaccination % high.	Ala Izydorczyk
<b>Other/general questions</b>			

3	<p>How to collaborate with DogsTrust or similar organisation for piloting the national level CNBR in Bangladesh?</p> <p>As an expert, I am working here with the National Rabies Elimination Program, led by Ministry of Health in a collaboration with Livestock and local Department.</p>	<p>the best way is to keep an eye on calls for grant rounds from organisations and then apply for support, making sure that sustainability and monitoring plans and other sources of funding are very clearly explained to have a greater chance of success.</p>	Karen Reed
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