

ICAM conference 2025 Day 1 - Questions and Answers

Presentation	Question	Answer	Answer Name
1.1	What was the name of the app please?	Talea. Learn more about Talea web&app is here: https://www.icam-coalition.org/tool/talea-street-survey-app/	Elly Hiby
1.1	Hello, we want to use the Talea app, who to contact please?	Please check out the Talea webinar first - there is an intro presentation that will help you get started. Then there is also a user guide. Finally, you can reach out to talea@icam-coalition.org for support if you get stuck :-)	Elly Hiby
1.2	Is France engaged ? Which town ? Thank you	No French towns or citeis yet - it would be great to have engagement there though, so please get in touch, Marie-Amelie. My email is Patrick@ICAM-Coalition.org	Patrick Gerard
1.2	How to make this initiative feasible	Hi Punita, thanks for your questions. The best way to make Positive Cities work at this early stage is through local advocates and local NGOs promoting the scheme and encouraging cities to participate. If you think your town or city might be interested, I'd love to hear from you at Patrick@ICAM-Coalition.org .	Patrick Gerard
1.2	As an individual - how can you kick start getting your organisation or local authority involved?	Why not start by chatting with your local representative? That conversation will give you a good sense of whether they're open to the pledge. If you want some background info first, email me at Patrick@ICAM-Coalition.org .	Patrick Gerard
1.2	Why does a culling programme exclude cities from participating? Wouldn't positive engagement to drive behaviour-change be more appropriate? Culling programmes aren't automatically inhumane, quite the opposite in many cases.	An existing culling programme would exclude a city from the Positive Cities scheme, but we wouldn't stop engaging with them. If they were open to engagement, we'd still provide guidance and work to encourage better practices over time.	Patrick Gerard

1.2	for Patrick, our town is a disaster in all aspects of human never mind animal welfare, which is why we stepped in, would love to chat to discuss ways to approach a non functional municipality	Hi Joanne - I'm sorry to hear about that situation. I'd be happy to discuss some practical steps for engaging your local government on this issue. Feel free to reach out to me at Patrick@ICAM-Coalition.org and we can chat about the best approach for your town.	Patrick Gerard
1.2	What can we do if the government is against TNR?	<p>That's a common challenge, and you're not alone in facing it. The key is building a coalition of like-minded citizens who support humane management approaches. Start by connecting with local animal welfare groups, veterinarians, and community members who share your concerns.</p> <p>Once you have that support base, you can present a united front to your government with evidence-based arguments about why TNVR is more effective and humane than culling. Having multiple voices and credible data makes it much harder for officials to dismiss your position.</p> <p>If you'd like some guidance on building that coalition or resources to help make your case, feel free to reach out to me at Patrick@ICAM-Coalition.org.</p>	Patrick Gerard

1.2	Hi, how do you convince the gov about TNRM?? Can share some tips. Thank You	<p>The key is building a coalition of like-minded citizens who support humane management approaches. Start by connecting with local animal welfare groups, veterinarians, and community members who share your concerns.</p> <p>Once you have that support base, you can present a united front to your government with evidence-based arguments about why TNVR is more effective and humane than culling. Having multiple voices and credible data makes it much harder for officials to dismiss your position.</p> <p>If you'd like some guidance on building support or resources to help make your case, feel free to reach out to me at Patrick@ICAM-Coalition.org.</p>	Patrick Gerard
1.3	how feasible is TNR especially in LMICs where resources are constraint?	Hi Eugene, resources are often a constraint, but do not be deterred - there are some international NGOs, programmes and grants, and options for low-cost TNR, e.g. mobile spay clinics and working with the community to capture dogs.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Hi, when you talk about license, what exactly consist of?	Hi Natalia, pet dogs in Singapore must be licensed. This involves microchipping of the dog and licensing with AVS. Owners are subject to licensing conditions, such as keeping pet dogs under control and leashed in a public place.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Thank you, what is the AVS?	The Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster of the National Parks Board. AVS is the Veterinary Authority in Singapore, and the main touch-point for animal-related issues, as well as the first responder for animal-related feedback.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Also the aspect of microchipping?	Yes, all pet dogs in Singapore must be microchipped and licensed. Free-roaming dogs which are TNRM'ed are also microchipped and registered e.g. to AVS, NGOs or their caregivers, for traceability	Anhui Lin

1.3	Is the pet ownership course available for download online?	The course is available via our AVS website here: https://www.nparks.gov.sg/avs/pets/cat-management-framework/cat-management-framework/pet-ownership-course	Anhui Lin
1.3	for Dr. Lin, really interesting how a well-developed and advanced city like Singapore could still find a place for free-roaming dogs How do Singaporeans perceive free-roaming dogs? Initial thoughts that came to mind would be a lot of human-dog conflicts (because of the density), traffic accidents, etc. And are Singaporeans OK with not bringing the free-roaming dogs to the animal shelter?	Thanks Philip, we strive to be a City in Nature - an urban oasis where people can live harmoniously among community animals and wildlife. In our urban planning, there are intentional creations of green spaces and connections to allow animals to move through the island safely. Public perception of our FRDs vary - majority keep a safe distance, especially since most FRDs do not reside in residential areas. Some may find them interesting and try to approach them. FRDs which are socialised with regular caregivers may be amenable to peoples' presence, while others may be more wary. With the reduced FRD population from TNRM, we have also seen feedback on FRDs decrease by over 70%. The public do understand that shelter capacity is limited and not all FRDs are suitable to be in a home or a shelter.	Anhui Lin
1.3	I would be grateful if we could have more info on the sterilisation target and the dog population modelling. Thank you!	Hi Flora, our sterilisation target is at least 70% for effective population reduction - this is based on scientific literature and population modelling. The dog population study was based on a Multi-Session Spatial Capture Recapture (MS-SCR) model.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Thanks for the really interesting talk, Dr Lin, it's great to hear of these successes that can be used elsewhere as well. What are the import requirements/laws for puppies being brought into Singapore? Is this a big problem there?	Hi Victoria, thanks for listening in. You can find our import requirements on our AVS website here: https://www.nparks.gov.sg/avs/pets/bringing-animals-into-singapore-and-exporting/bringing-in-and-transshipping-dogs-and-cats/preparing-to-bring-dogs-and-cats-into-singapore	Anhui Lin

1.3	Thanks. I see puppies from Schedule 1 countries (Australia, NZ, UK and Ireland) don't need rabies vaccines, and there doesn't seem to be a minimum age mentioned here. How do you ensure good welfare of young puppies coming in from these countries for ongoing sale within Singapore?	minimum age for import is 3 months, the dogs require a health certificate for import and are undergo a veterinary examination upon arrival in Singapore	Victoria Phillips
1.3	when you say Singapore is rabies free - does this include in the wildlife setting?	Yes :)	Anhui Lin
1.3	With regards to the release of the dogs, what is the existence of these dogs in Singapore like? Can it be considered truly humane to release animals into environments where conditions are challenging and resources limited. What is the quality of life of these animals? Is this fully address by the 'Managed' aspect - which seems good, providing the public comply?	Thanks Joe. Under the TNRM programme, dogs are rehomed as a priority and only released if they cannot be rehomed. Released dogs live out their lives naturally under the care of community caregivers who feed the dogs regularly.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Is it possible to have a idea off costs ? and benefits in terms off health ?	We reimburse NGOs for costs of trapping, sterilisation, microchipping, pre- and post-sterilisation boarding of TNRM dogs. Dogs are also given a rabies vaccination before being released.	Anhui Lin
1.3	do you have any issues with free roaming dogs adapting to live mainly inside?	Hi Caroline, not all FRDs are suitable to live in a home. Adopted Singapore Specials have strong post adoption support from the NGOs that rehomed them. This is in addition to training, socialisation, lifestyle adaptations e.g. walking during non-peak hours.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Would like to what's % successfully rehomed in Singapore	Hi Punita, about 65% of dogs trapped under TNRM have been rehomed, fostered or sheltered.	Anhui Lin
1.3	who is leading community education and involvmentcity or via ngos	Hi Barbara, both AVS and NGOs work collaboratively on education and engagement. We each have overlapping yet different spheres of influence, so it is a complementary effort. For instance, some community caregivers may prefer to engage NGOs, while other stakeholders like the general public and schools may prefer to reach out to the Government.	Anhui Lin

1.3	'@Dr. Lin, do you find that cropping the left ear is better than using an eartag?	Hi Serafina, yes ear-tipping certainly worked better for us. We did explore ear tagging with specially fabricated tags, however there were issues with durability and the tags potentially getting caught in fences, bush etc.	Anhui Lin
1.3	are there any published research that outlines your work and the population modelling you use?	No, we do not have any publications (yet)	Anhui Lin
1.3	Does the Singapore government pay for the sterilization program?	Yes, AVS funds the trapping, sterilisation, microchipping, pre- and post-sterilisation boarding of TNRM dogs.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Do you have an existing Republic Act? Or existing ordinance that you follow with regards to Trap Neuter Return, if yes we would love to have a copy or guidelines as to have a basis on starting this program. Thank you	The Animals and Birds Act safeguards the health and welfare of animals in Singapore. We do not have legislation specific to TNRM. TNRM is a collaborative effort that AVS has developed with input from NGOs, vets and the community.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Are there significant change in how public perceive local breed upon rebranding it as Singapore special? Any statistics?	Anecdotally, there is a positive change. Previously seen or referred to as "mongrels", adopting or owning a Singapore Special has become something to be proud of - generally approved of by society.	Anhui Lin
1.3	do you frequently have severe aggressive dogs? if so do u constantly rehabilitate them or do u euthanize them?	Severe aggression is infrequent. We do have dogs that are not able to be successfully rehabilitated, or rehabilitation puts them under severe stress in the kennel. In these cases, the dogs are returned to the environment to live out their lives naturally under the care of community caregivers.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Great presentation..... How do you tackle the political will challenge, especially when you have already secured donor support for sterilisation programs?	Thanks Richard, this is often the most challenging aspect of many policies and programmes. Harnessing calls from the public, the community, vets and NGOs can play a pivotal role. It is also useful to show decision-makers the cost-benefit analysis, socio-economic and health benefits of TNR, especially where rabies risk can be significantly reduced through DPM.	Anhui Lin
1.3	How do you do the tipping of the ear in dogs?	We tip the left ear of the dogs while they are under general anaesthesia, after sterilisation.	Anhui Lin

1.3	How is stray dog adoption from shelter ...	Hi Jeton, most NGOs and shelters have strict adoption processes in place. This includes questionnaires and interviews of owners, including house visits where required. Owners are assessed on their ability to care for and provide for the dogs, financially and time-wise, as well as awareness of what pet ownership involves. There can be multiple meet-and-greet sessions, to ensure suitability, compatibility and commitment from owners.	Anhui Lin
1.3	have you encountered resistance to tnvr since some would complain that when you release dogs, they may still cause accidents	Hi Maria, yes there are members of the public who do not support the release of dogs. Where dogs have to be released, they are usually released in areas of low human and vehicular traffic, to minimise the risk of vehicular accidents and human-dog interactions.	Anhui Lin
1.3	for Dr. Lin, do you do some training for individuals that want to help roaming dogs, e.g. with feeding or care	Hi Yessenia, yes we have guidelines on caregivers for FRDs. They can be found on our AVS website here: https://www.nparks.gov.sg/avs/-/media/avs_-feeding-stray-dogs-booklet-(eng).pdf	Anhui Lin
1.3	Could you please share more about how you do training and capacity building?	Hi Suchitra, we leverage on local and international stakeholders who have vast experience and expertise. Locally, we organise workshops for NGOs and the animal management industry to share challenges and best practices. We have also invited international experts such as Dr Jenna Kiddie from Dogs Trust UK to hold workshops and public seminars on dog welfare and behaviour.	Anhui Lin
1.3	The neutering program to culminate the rabies is very good initiative but while catching dogs and then releasing them in a different locality will result in different territory from the earlier one and they might be unwelcomed and many a times chased by dominant dogs/alfa male. How to solve these issues in field and ground?	Hi Maj, for dogs which cannot be rehomed, we return the dogs to their original environment as much as possible. We also ensure community caregivers are present to monitor the released dogs.	Anhui Lin

1.3	What does it mean to rehome to HDB flats? Do you mean release there? Do the apartment owners mostly agree or also complain? Thank you Dr Anhui Lin	Hi Janice, the owners of the HDB flats choose to adopt the Singapore Specials. Under Project ADORE programme, owners have to abide by a Code of Responsible Behaviour, and the dogs must undergo training before adoption. Agreement from the neighbours must also be sought, so as to reduce the risk of neighbourly tension and disputes.	Anhui Lin
1.3	I switched device and not able to see my earlier questions. My apologies if it had been responded. For Singapore speaker - Dr Lin: 1. What's the specific % of free roamers successfully rehomed/ adopted? 2. Are there significant change in the preception with rebranding of local mix breeds as Singapore specials? Are there data to show it?	Hi Punita, about 65% of the dogs trapped under TNRM have been rehomed/adopted, fostered or sheltered. Anecdotaly, there has been a positive change with the rebranding. Previously often referred to as "mongrels", it is now positively looked upon by society for someone to adopt or own a Singapore Special.	Anhui Lin
1.3	Are there any plans to increase the age of import? This is something the UK government is working on now too to improve welfare and reduce puppy trade.	not at the moment.	Anhui Lin
1.4	The neutering program to culminate the rabies is very good initiative but while catching dogs and then releasing them in a different locality will result in differnt territory from the earlier one and they might be unwelcomed and many a times chased by dominant dogs/alfa male. How to solve these issues in filed and ground.	we insist on releasing the dogs at the location where they have been caught to prevent compomising their welfare. Our programs include monitoring part where catchers take a picture of the location and the dog at the time of catching and releasing.	Alida Brkan
1.4	How did u measure the public interst in Responsible Ownership?	I.e. before starting programmes questionnaires are very useful	Alida Brkan
1.4	how to get in touch with undp for support on tackling community awaeness	We do this support to communities and cities in collaboration so feel free to contact us for more information	Alida Brkan
1.4	how did you proceed to gather people's knowledge, attitude, practices and behaviour towards animals? was there a national survey? Did the Government/authorities helped and did people respond?	If you mean how did we measure, the questionairres were always useful and also meetings and talking with local government and different stakeholders (police depts, NGOs, parents, media, veterinarians...)	Alida Brkan

1.4	Hi. How is the dog communal police funded. Cheryl South Africa	By city government, Comunal department, public budget. Greetings to South Africa!	Alida Brkan
1.4	Hi - Is it possible to share a full selection criteria / application questions you're using to assess applicants?	For criteria please, send us e-mail. alida.brkan@dogstrust.ba anida.dinarevic@dogstrust.ba	Alida Brkan
1.4	Presentaion from Bosnia - How was mesured impact in reducing no of stray dogs ... any update estimation of stray dog presence and their welfare/disease presence ?	Using dog count surveys, there are online tools that are free and really useful in estimating population and their status (bsc) like WVS, and Talea. Also more expensive but also availabe agencies who do different type of reaserch.	Alida Brkan
1.4	Have you done any collaboration with the Philippines in the past?	Dogs Trust Bosnia did not have any collaboration with Philippines, yet.	Alida Brkan
1.4	ok thats great, i live in mauritius and am volunteer, issue comes from colunities in terms od letting dogs stray, not gettung them to vet and not sterilising	It is a long journey and takes time to teach people about responsible ownership. Volunteers and people who care are very important, so keep good work	Alida Brkan
1.4	For Bosnia speakers: How did the council handle the dog bite incidents before they embarked onto your initiatives	After changing their strategy of work and invested in CNVR, shelter and better condition for dogs, dog bite incidents started to decline.	Alida Brkan
1.5	do u have any data on Leishmaniosis prevalence in your dog population? and human population? did u find any correlation?	We have a canine prevalence of around 10%, and these cases are linked to human occurrences.	Samilla Santos
1.5	so , do u think there is a clear correlation of the canine cases with the human ones? coz there is a lot of debate in the scientific community. also do u eutanize the positive one or do yiu treat them?	I'm not an expert on the topic, but to me, the correlation isn't clear. There is a spatial and temporal overlap between human and canine cases. Currently, when a dog tests positive, the owner can choose treatment, but they have to cover all the costs themselves. Unfortunately, the public service only offers euthanasia as a free option.	Samilla Santos
1.6	Is rabies in Romania? Are there many human cases?	live answered	Anca Georgescu
1.6	Great figures and it's clear how much you care. Is there a TNR programme for cats?	Yes, we timidly started neutering cats, too. It's challenging as the dogs interventions are very expensive and we're always short of funding.	Anca Georgescu
1.6	Presentation from Romania - how you do or plan to do the revaccination of stray dogs ?	We go there regularly for vaccination mini-campaigns and call the people to have their dogs vaccinated. We also give them dog food, which is always a good stimulent.	Anca Georgescu

1.6	Thank you for the heartbreaking and heartwarming presentation. Do you accept international volunteers?	Absolutely, yet we don't have funds to provide board and lodging, very sorry for that.	Anca Georgescu
1.6	<p>Presentation from Romania - while navigating this challenging situation did you come across the issue of people breeding dogs as a source of income? If so, how did you tackle this? In Greece this is common practice inside Roma communities.</p> <p>Thank you for a truly touching and inspiring presentation.</p>	<p>Yes, it happens, though not very often. We have long and repeated conversations with these people, also explaining we won't provide medical care for the dogs of that family etc. Sometimes we're succesfull, sometimes we're not.</p>	Anca Georgescu
1.7	Dr Nat - by kill do you mean euthanasia or culling?	Both - depending on the municipality and who they engage to do it. They usually remove them before the killing, so most of the time we don't really have the real picture	Natasha Lee
1.7	do u have reported attacks of pack of dogs towards humans?	Some dog bites are counted in certain municipalities (through number of hospital cases). Some more damaging bites are reported in the media.	Natasha Lee
1.7	Presentation from Indonezia - experince with implementation of penalty for pet owners in case of dog abandonce ?	I think you mean Malaysia? Our laws are very confusing regarding dumping/abandonment - very hard to penalise pet owners for that	Natasha Lee
1.7	Are those free-roaming dogs microchipped once neutered/spayed? Why or why not?	They are not microchipped. There's no registration for free-roaming animals. And municipalities that catches dogs do not scan for microchips	Natasha Lee
1.7	Thank you for the inspirational presentation, Dr. Nat! I wonder if you know what the considerations are for municipalities to euthanize stray dogs other than Rabies transmission?	In Malaysia, it is mostly due to 'nuisance' complaints. In the legislation, it was built to control rabies, but that is no longer the main issue	Natasha Lee