FVE Seminar on ‘Stray Dogs: present and future’
3 June 2015, Iasi, Romania

[OIE Platform on AW for Europe]
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe

Dr N. Leboucq – OIE sub-regional Representation in Brussels
Objectives

Improve AW in Europe
Empower VS to take actions in AW
- Raise awareness
- Improve implementation
- Improve standard setting

Action Plan

(first) 2014 – 2016
3 priority topics:
- transport
- slaughter
- Stray dog population management

Governance

Steering Group
Secretariat (OIE sub-regional representation in Brussels)

Funding

EC as main donor
But also
- France, Germany, WAP
- Romania, Belgium, Georgia, Serbia
- IZSAM (Teramo)
**OIE stray dog strategy in Europe**

* Content

1. Stray Dog Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool
2. Regional Roadmaps (Balkans, West-Eurasia, others?)
3. Regional Awareness Campaign
4. E-depository of best practices on Stray Dogs
5. Consultation meeting on AW activities in Europe
6. OIE regional Focal Points seminars (AW, COM)
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe

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Stray dog Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool

- Articles turned into questions (⇒ questionnaire with 32 questions)
- Objectives: to measure and improve compliance with Chapter 7.7
- Developed with the support of IZSAM Teramo
- Online questionnaire
  [http://oiestraydogs.izs.it/limesurvey/w/p2/index.html](http://oiestraydogs.izs.it/limesurvey/w/p2/index.html)
- To be used as a self-assessment (full / partial / insufficient compliance)
- Identification of weak areas for improvement (and thereby the design of Roadmaps)
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe

Stray dog Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe

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First Workshop on stray dog management for Balkan countries (SDB1) in Bucharest, Romania, on 17-19 June 2014

**Participants**
- 10 Balkan countries and territories
- 2 participants per country
  - OIE NFP on Animal Welfare
  - Vet working at municipal level

**Main objectives**
- Remind the provisions of the OIE Chapter 7.7
- Review National Control strategies on stray dog population
- Identify the key weaknesses/constraints/challenges
- Share best practices in the region
- Exchange on a common vision at Sub-Regional level

OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
Regional Roadmaps - Balkans
Main outcomes:

• A common vision at Sub-Regional level was agreed: “to become fully compliant with the OIE Standard on stray dog population control by 2025”, (implying that the stray dog population is reduced to an acceptable level and the risk of transmission of rabies and other zoonoses to humans through stray dogs is mitigated)

• Development of National Roadmaps to achieve the Vision by addressing the identified key challenges

• Organisation of follow-up (SDB) Workshops every 2 years to monitor the progress using the OIE Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool (SAM)
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
Regional Roadmaps - Balkans

Vision achieved (2025)

- SDB1: June 2014
- SAM1: Feb 2015
- SDB2: June 2016
- SAM2: May 2015
- SDBx: 

Progress measurement

- Improve health and welfare of dogs
- Reduce numbers of stray dogs to an acceptable level
- Reduce the risks of zoonotic diseases other than rabies
- Assist in the creation and maintenance of a rabies immune or rabies free population
- Prevent illegal trade and trafficking
- Prevent harm to the environment and other animals
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
Regional Roadmaps - Balkans

First self-assessment - process

- Launched in February 2015
- Objective: assessing the situation = establish national baseline situation on stray dogs (only section I mandatory)
- 6 weeks to respond
# OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
## Regional Roadmaps - Balkans

## First self-assessment - responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of responding countries (Q return rate)</td>
<td><strong>10/11 (90%)</strong> countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation by Delegates</td>
<td><strong>9/10</strong> countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position of the respondents</td>
<td><strong>6 OIE National Focal Point on AW</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to complete the questionnaire</td>
<td><strong>[1; 3 hours] → average: 1,6 hours</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to collect data</td>
<td>In most cases, data already available (for monthly, annual or project reports)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 months/4 weeks to collect data (2 countries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Process to collect data</td>
<td>Data already available (5 countries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data requested to the local municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Questionnaire sent locally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Questionnaire adapted and then sent locally**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First self-assessment - responses

1. Do you estimate the number of owned dogs in your country?

OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
Regional Roadmaps - Balkans
1. Does the stray dog population pose a problem in your country?

2. Do you estimate the number of stray dogs in your country?

- Owned dogs that roam freely
- Dogs that have been abandoned by their owner
- Unowned dogs that reproduce successfully
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Regional Roadmaps - Balkans

First self-assessment - responses

- Increasing stray dog population: 67%
- Decreasing stray dog population: 11%
- Stable stray dog population: 11%
- Not application: 11%
First self-assessment - responses

Section I – Understanding the situation
Section II – Control measures
Section III – Monitoring & evaluation

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Regional Roadmaps - Balkans

Non compliant
Partially compliant
Fully compliant
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe  
Regional Roadmaps - Balkans

First self-assessment – responses ➔ WEAKNESSES

- Lack of resources: 7 (all: 1; FR: 4; HR: 1; PR: 1)
- Insufficient dog legislation: 2
- Insufficient enforcement of legislation: 8 (I&R; mvt; dog owners; rabies vaccination; sterilization)
- Lack of coordination: 3
- Lack of communication: 2
- Lack of awareness: 2
- Lack of control strategy: 1
- Lack of evaluation of control strategy: 1
First self-assessment – responses ⇒ EXTERNAL SUPPORT (80% of countries)

- Education and training: 8
- Awareness campaign: 3
- Resources: 5 (FR: 3; HR: 1; PR: 1)
- Legislation: 2
- Collaboration: 2
- Stray dog control strategy / project: 4
First self-assessment – responses

Questionnaire satisfaction survey

Several suggestions for improvements provided
First self-assessment – next steps

- Questionnaire improvement (process and content) [WHO]
- Drafting of country and regional reports
- Preparation of interview guide
- Preparation and holding of SDB2 (June 2016; location?)
- Capacity building activities and partners collaboration
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
Regional Roadmaps - Balkans

2014

SDB1
First Stray dog population management Workshop for the Balkans

First self-assessment (baseline 2014)

2016

SDB2
Second Stray dog population management Workshop for the Balkans

Second self-assessment (May 2016)

Priorities:

Priority 1 – dog population census
Priority 2 – sources identification
Priority 3 – legislation modernization
Priority 4 – public awareness

Capacity building activities

OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
Regional Roadmaps - Balkans
First self-assessment – next steps

- SDB1 (2014)
- SDB2 (2016)
- Partners / stakeholders
- Dog counting surveys
- Identification of sources of stray dogs
- Legislation seminars
- Campaign awareness on good dog ownership
- Other CB activities (Webinars)
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Regional Roadmaps - Other regions

SDB (2014)
SDEE (2016?)
SDWE (2015)
SDME (2016?)

First workshop (Kyrg. October 2015, tbc)
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe

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OIE stray dog strategy in Europe

Stray dog awareness campaign - Balkans

➢ ‘Campaign Essentials’

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‘Campaign Essentials’

* OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the campaign is to limit dog abandon by making the dog owners aware of their responsibilities in the interests of both dogs (animal welfare aspects) and the wider community (public security and health aspects).
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To improve the level of knowledge of what constitutes responsible dog ownership: the target behaviour change in the longer-term, to which this campaign will contribute, is therefore that dog owners take better care of their dogs by providing their animals with what is necessary for their health, welfare and protection.
- To increase understanding of why responsible dog ownership is important: They also become aware that their dog can present serious hazards – including human death – to the wider community if their animal is not properly handled (free roaming or abandoned).
STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS AND TARGET AUDIENCES

- **Target audiences** (key audiences) = dog owners and potential dog owners in the Balkans, including children.

- **Campaign leaders** = The national VS (specifically the OIE FP assigned to AW)

- **Secondary stakeholders** (intermediaries in campaign implementation) = local authorities, private veterinarians, pet shops, schools, nongovernmental organizations, and journalists (other national authorities encouraged to step in)

- **The OIE** (i) provides the overall direction of the Campaign; (ii) develops and provide the Campaign ‘packages’; and (iii) provides results of the Campaign at regional levels, based on national post-Campaign evaluations.
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe
Stray dog awareness campaign - Balkans

➢ ‘Campaign Essentials’

* SLOGAN

LOVE HIM – DON’T LEAVE HIM

(Still under discussion)
Be a responsible citizen, your dog is your responsibility
By protecting your dog, you are protecting yourself and the wider community
Dogs needs go beyond just food
(For working dogs) it is worth investing in your dog’s health and welfare
Dogs are sentient beings
Dogs are a life-time commitment and having a dog should be based on an informed decision; in no case, should a dog be a Christmas or birthday present
In situations where you can no longer keep your dog, many people can help you
‘Campaign Essentials’

* CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

- A logo
- A poster
- A leaflet
- A video for children
- A game (game of life; jeu de l’oie) for children
- An infographic
- A website banner
- etc
‘Campaign Essentials’

* GET INVOLVED

**Veterinary services and municipalities**

- Distribute posters and leaflets about responsible dog ownership
- Speak to the media about the importance of limit dog abandon and the successes and challenges of your country in being in compliance with OIE international standards
- Organize free rabies vaccination campaigns (if possible)
- Invite prominent politicians, celebrities and sporting heroes to advocate for responsible dog ownership
**OIE stray dog strategy in Europe**

**Stray dog awareness campaign - Balkans**

### ‘Campaign Essentials’

#### GET INVOLVED

**Journalists**
- Write articles about responsible dog ownership as a key measures for stray dog population management and what more needs to be done
- Interview staff from the veterinary services and municipalities
- Write feature stories about dog owners who have a special relationship with their dog.

**International organizations**
- Join forces to inform your constituents about global vaccination goals
- Provide updated information on stray dog population management and rabies control
- Urge media outlets to run special features and editorials on responsible dog ownership

**Schools**
- Broadcast the video dedicated for children
- Organise a drawing competition on the theme ‘what is a happy dog’
- Educate children on responsible dog ownership using the OIE game
OIE Platform activities

- ‘leader’
  - NGOs
    - (infographic, leaflets, posters, website banners)
  - Local authorities
    - (infographic, leaflets, posters, website banners)
  - Medias
    - (video, audio)
  - Private veterinarians
    - (infographic, leaflets, posters)
  - schools
    - (video, games)

National activities

- ‘relay’
  - General public (dog owners, parents, children)

- ‘target’

Awareness campaign ‘Package’

- Infographic
- Leaflets
- Posters
- Video
- Audio
- website banners
- etc
### Next steps *(indicative chronogram)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Developing the ‘Campaign essentials’</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Selecting designer (call for tender?)</td>
<td>May – June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Developing the package</td>
<td>June - August 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Distributing the package to countries</td>
<td>Sept 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Preparing campaign at national level</td>
<td>Sept - October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Reporting on the campaign</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Analysis of the campaign outcomes (SG6)</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If successful, a similar campaign will be rolled out in another region in the following years.*
OIE stray dog strategy in Europe

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Website of the OIE Platform on AW for Europe

http://rpawe.oie.int

First OIE Regional Workshop on (national strategy)
Stray Dog population management for Balkan countries (SDB1)
Bucharest / Romania – 17-19 June 2014

Three Balkans countries agreed on a sub-regional Vision ‘to become fully compliant with OIE standard on stray dog population control by 2025’, thereby implying that the stray dog population is reduced to an acceptable level and the risk of transmission of rabies and other zoonoses to humans through stray dogs is mitigated.

To achieve this Vision, the countries committed to develop National Roadmaps and monitor their situation on a regular basis, using the OIE monitoring and evaluation tool specifically developed for this purpose, based on the provisions of the Chapter 7.7. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
Website of the OIE Platform on AW for Europe

http://rpawe.oie.int

Stray dog population control

Best practices, guidelines and recommendations on stray dog population control from OIE Member countries and OIE partners are made available on this page to facilitate the implementation of the OIE Standards on animal welfare.

We are therefore encouraging all OIE Delegates, supported by their OIE National Focal Points and OIE partners organisations to share with the Platform Secretariat (by e-mail: rsr.bruxelles@oie.int) any best practices in one of the 3 OIE official languages (English, French and Spanish) which are in line with the OIE Standards on animal welfare and help their implementation.

Following documents related to the stray dog population control could be consulted:

In English language:

Humane Dog Population Management Guidance - developed by the International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM)


Code of practice for welfare of dogs - developed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

In French language:

Vivre avec un animal de compagnie - développé par le Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la pêche, la Société centrale canine (SCC) et le Syndicat national des vétérinaires d'exercice libéral (SNVEL), France
Conclusions

To countries (in particular national focal points)
- Use your self-assessment to design a roadmap and improve compliance with OIE standards
- (for the non responding country, come on board)
- Visit the website, stay informed of the Platform activities (awareness campaign)
- Share best practices and success stories
- Contact the Platform Secretariat for any question (rsr.bruxelles@oie.int)

To global and regional partners
- Lets coordinate to help countries achieve the Vision
- Lets share resources whenever possible
- Lets share best practices, guidelines, recommendations, etc
Thank you for your attention

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