



**First OIE regional Workshop
on (national strategy) Stray Dog population management
for Balkan countries**

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**Country Report on National Stray Dogs situation
Report from CROATIA**

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I. Understanding country situation

- Do stray dogs pose a problem in your country?
 - **NO from the point of health view and they are not visible in the field.**
- Which is the estimated number of stray dogs in your country?
 - We did not estimate the number of stray dogs in Croatia
- What are the trends (↗↘→) in the stray dog population observed over the past 3 years in your country? It is not observed
- How do you estimate the stray dog population in your country?
 - It is not estimated but we do not notice the increasing number of stray dogs
- Are the sources of stray dogs identified in your country?
 - OWNED DOGS
 - ABANDONED DOGS
- Do you have a regulatory framework to address stray dog population management? Is it in line with OIE recommendations? (article 7.7.5 point 3)
 - ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT, OG 135/2006 and 37/2013
 - VETERINARY ACT, OG 82/2013 and 148/2013
 - Yes, it is highly in accordance with OIE recommendations
- Is rabies present in your country?
 - Yes – in foxes
- Are stray dogs posing a threat with regard to rabies transmission to humans?
 - no

II. Control measures

- Is there a national dog population control strategy/programme in your country?
 - In 2010 OIE Stray Dog population control standards were published on Ministry of Agriculture website, link:
<http://www.veterinarstvo.hr/UserDocsImages//dobrobitZivotinja/Program%20kontrola%20populacije%20pasa%20litalica%20u%20Republici%20Hrvatskoj,%202010..pdf>
- Who are the main actors involved in national dog population control strategy/programme in your country?
 - Veterinary inspectors: control of identification , vaccinations, conditions in shelters, breedings establishments, petshops, movement of animals, danger dogs, responsibility of owners
 - Private veterinarians: vaccination and microchipping, health and welfare of animals, entering data into the Pet Register, issuing pet passport, surgical operations (castration, sterilisation, tail cutting-allowed in hounds)
 - Local government – gathering dogs, financing of establishment and operating the shelters if they are not established (in accordance with their need)
 - Environmental inspection – local government - dumps

II. Control measures 1



What are the main control measures implemented in your countries?

- dog identification and registration: Veterinary Act, Art. 47
- vaccination against rabies and other preventive measures against zoonotic diseases: Veterinary Act
- veterinary procedures (e.g. surgical procedures): Animal Protection Act,
- control of dog movement (national and international):
 - international: Veterinary Act, Art. 66; Regulation 998/2003, link: <http://www.veterinarstvo.hr/UserDocsImages/veteInspekcija/GVI/Letak%20%20HR%20-%20psi,%20mačke,%20tvorovi%20.pdf>
 - national: Veterinary Act
 - municipality: Animal protection Act, art. 58 (4)/Decisions – muzzle, leash, areas dedicated to free dogs movement (City of Zagreb – Decision on the manner of keeping companion animals and the manner of handling lost and abandoned animals, OG 21/2008 and 6/2012)
- control of dangerous dogs: Animal Protection Act, Art. 48, Ordinance on the control of dangerous dogs, OG, 117/2008
- regulations on the dog breeding and sale of dogs: Animal Protection Act, Art. 49, Ordinance on laying down conditions to be met by breeders of pets intended for sale OG, 56/2009

II. Control measures 2

- environmental controls (e.g. abattoirs, dead stock facilities – veterinary inspection, rubbish dumps – environment inspectors): Veterinary Act
- regulations for dog shelters management: Animal Protection Act, Art. 48, Ordinance on the requirements to be met by shelters, OG, 110/04, 121/04, 29/05 – under amendment
- animal welfare obligations of owners and authorities: Animal Protection Act, Art. 5 and 58(1,2), Veterinary Act, Art. 47, Art. 51, Art. 66

Is stray dog euthanasia in place in your country?

- **Animal Protection Act, Art. 57(4)** Any animal placed in an animal shelter, which has not been returned to its owner and cannot be kept any longer or placed in a foster home, may be humanely killed after 60 days : **protection measure of 60 days to keep dog in shelter if it can not be rehomed earlier**
- after that period shelter can decide to keep animal for a longer period or to apply euthanasia

III. Monitoring and evaluation

- **Do you monitor and evaluate your national dog population control program?**
 - the implementation of all measures involved in dog population (see slide 4) is controlled by veterinary inspectors, environment inspectors and at municipality level by communal policeman

How do you monitor and evaluate your national dog population control program?

- Veterinary inspectors work in accordance with their annual inspection plan

IV. Conclusions and future needs

- Overall, do you consider that your country is in compliance with OIE standard on Stray Dog population control?
 - Yes, except in counting dogs for estimating dog control population
- What are the main weak points of your National Control Strategy?
 - the lack of estimation of dog control population
 - resources (human, financial):
 - At central level - for better communication of the dog control population programme to the public and municipality
 - At municipality level – to better communication of the dog control population programme to the public
 - Better education of dog owners and local government on their responsibility
- Do you need external aid to address the weakness(es) with stray dogs in your country?
 - YES



Thank you for your attention!