



**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 Republic of Macedonia)**

Dr Dimitar Terzievski

I. Understanding country situation

- Do stray dogs pose a problem in your country?
- Yes, stray dogs, and a stray dog population control is a challenge for the competent authority and to the local municipality authorities as well. They pose a real problem, concerning public health and safety.
- Which is the estimated number of stray dogs in your country?
- Until this moment, Food and veterinary agency performed stray dog surveys in 4 towns in Macedonia and the estimated number of dogs is following:
- Skopje (2010-2442 dogs, from 1969 to 2915 dogs: 2014-1883 Dogs, from 1357 to 2309 dogs)
- Tetovo 224 dogs (from 60 to 388 dogs)
- Gostivar 420 dogs (from 196-644 dogs)
- Negotino 119 dogs (from 52 to 185 dogs)
- At the moment FVA don't have an information, or had performed a survey activities on a country level.
- What are the trends (↗↘→) in the stray dog population observed over the past 3 years in your country?
- According to the survey in Skopje conducted in May 2014, compared with the survey in 2010 the number of dogs decreased 25% and the number of CNVR dogs increased by 17%.
- How do you estimate the stray dog population in your country?
- The estimation is made according to the WSPA methodology (direct observation).
- Are the sources of stray dogs identified in your country?
- The sources of stray dogs is irresponsible ownership and self reproducing population.

I. Understanding country situation

- 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)
- **Yes, National legislation is in line with article 7.7.5 point 3 recommendations (provisions for dangerous dogs and the breeding and sale of dogs is in the draft text of the new law on AW which is in procedure for adoption).**
- Is rabies present in your country? Are stray dogs posing a threat with regard to rabies transmission to humans?
- The main vector and reservoir of the disease in the Balkan Region is the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), which constitutes 88% of the rabies cases. From December 2000 till July 2011 there has been no rabies cases reported in Republic of Macedonia. From July 2011 till March 2012, nine rabies cases were recorded from which eight in wild animals and one in domestic animals. Three of eight rabies cases in wild animals originate from apparently healthy animals shot during regular hunting activities. The last case of human rabies was recorded in 1976.

II. Control measures

- Is there a national dog population control strategy/programme in your country?
- In the moment there is not a written national dog population control strategy/programme. According to the draft text of the new Law on animal welfare, municipalities are responsible to adopt and implement a proper dog population control strategy/programme.
- Who are the main actors involved in national dog population control strategy/programme in your country?
- According to the draft text of the new Law on animal welfare- Municipalities should adopt a dog control strategy with collaboration with NGO's. FVA is responsible for controls and enforcement.
- What are the main control measures implemented in your countries?
- The main control measure adopted by the municipalities which have dog shelters in Macedonia is CNVR.

II. Control measures

- Is stray dog euthanasia in place in your country?
- according to the national legislation which is in force at the moment, municipalities have 2 options to dog control strategy:
 - dogs temporarily housed in the kennels shall be kept for a period long enough to exhaust all the possibilities for adoption (30 days). In cases when the adoption is not possible, or when it is obvious that dogs do not suffer or are sick and may pose serious risk for the public or animal health, they shall be killed by means of human euthanasia carried out by doctors of veterinary medicine.
 - dogs temporarily housed in the kennels may be castrated, health treated, preventively protected in accordance with the provisions regarding veterinary health, and returned in the region from where they were collected. In that case, stray dogs shall be permanently visibly marked on a manner which shall not provoke unnecessary pain or suffering.

III. Monitoring and evaluation

- Do you monitor and evaluate your national dog population control program?
- FVA performed a second stray dog survey (may 2014) in Skopje to monitor and evaluate the shelter that operates in city of Skopje.
- How do you monitor and evaluate your national dog population control program?
- Evaluation of the stray dog population control program is done only in Skopje, but the plan is to perform a control surveys in other towns in which surveys is already performed. Also, feedback from the local community is taken into account (collecting data from professionals as local veterinarians, medical doctors, police etc.).

IV. Conclusions and future needs

- Overall, do you consider that your country countries is in compliance with OIE standard on Stray Dog population control?
- **Yes, most of the OIE standard on stray dog population control is transposed into the national legislation.**
- What are the main weak points of your National Control Strategy?
- **Implementation and enforcement.**
- Do you need external aid to address the weakness(es) with stray dogs in your country?
- **External aid as advices, collaboration and sharing expiriance is always welcomed.**
- **FVA have a very good collaboration and technical support from the RSPCA.**



Thank you for your attention!