



**First OIE regional workshop  
on (national strategy) stray dog population management  
for Balkan countries**

**Bucharest, Romania – 17-19 June 2014**

**Country Report on National Stray Dogs situation  
Report from Bosnia and Herzegovina**

# I. Understanding country situation

- Problem of the stray dog population in B&H became visible after the adoption of the Animal Welfare Act 2009, because we have “no kill” orientation.
- Due to the lack of rules and regulation on the identification of animals, B&H does not have the respective data base; for the same reason, it is virtually impossible to keep track on the number of the stray dog population.
- Despite the existing legislation (which also includes penalties), the stray dog population is increasing in past 3 years.

The identified sources of stray dog are:

- uncontrolled breeding
- dogs without owners
- owner's dogs that roam free

## I. Understanding country situation

- SVO of B&H prepare draft of Strategy for stray dog population management which is in the line with OIE recommendations.
- In the same time started the procedure for amendments of Law by Parliament of B&H.
- Decrease of rabies in animals in the last 3 years; in 2014 4 cases only.
- Municipalities have a campaign to vaccinate of stray dog population, but it is limited of low budget, and on non - satisfactory level.
- No case of dog-to-human rabies transmission has been reported in the past 3 years.

## II. Control measures

- Development and implementation of the program require the joint effort of the all levels of government (entities, cantons, cities, municipalities), and of veterinarians in the public and private sectors, NGOs, and dog owners.
- The combined measures only can result in an effective implementation and control of SD Strategy .
- Measures include:
  - Education and legislation with regard to responsible keeping a dog
  - Registration and identification of dogs
  - Control of reproduction
  - Removing dangerous dogs – euthanasia
  - Capture of the dogs, keeping the shelter, promote adoption
  - Control of the environment
  - Control of dog movement
  - Control of breeding dogs intended for sale
  - Reducing of frequency of bites

## III. Monitoring and evaluation

The main element for monitoring and evaluation:

- The dog population size especially 2 categories of dogs
- Dog welfare in target population
- Prevalence of zoonotic diseases in animal and human population
- Responsible ownership, including measures of attitudes and understanding of responsible ownership and evidence that this is translating into responsible behaviour.
- Feedback information sources are:
- Collect information from local municipalities, veterinarians and shelters.

## IV. Conclusions and future needs

- Overall, we consider that B&H is in compliance with OIE standard on Stray Dog population control program. We are making our first steps, but they are in the good direction.  
The main weak points are
- Generally, the lack of social empathy and the insufficiently developed public awareness
- More specifically, the lack of the central and unique data base on the dogs
- In addressing this issue, B&H welcomes every assistance based on the best practices in OIE members countries.



**Thank you for your attention!**