



**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 GREECE**

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I. Understanding country situation

- Stray dogs pose a considerable problem in Greece in regards to the urban environments.
- There is a **rise** (↗) in the stray dog population observed over the past years in areas of low economic status.
- The **number of strays** is estimated by means of **capture** and **registration** on a local basis and for municipalities that are members of local Associations (e.g. Association of Municipalities of Piraeus and Athens, of Thessaloniki etc.)

I. Understanding country situation

- There is no reliable data on the number of owned and stray dogs on a national level. **Registration** is obligatory since **2012** but the national database is expected to be completed by **July 2014**.
- Most stray dogs are formerly owned dogs that have been abandoned and reproduce freely.
- Greece was a **rabies** free country up until **19th October 2012** when a red fox from Kozani was the first case. 48 animals have tested positive for rabies ever since, amongst which 5 dogs.

Understanding country situation



Rabies cases since 2012

II. Control measures

- The national legal framework addresses the **municipalities** as responsible for stray dog population management (law 4039/2012, 4235/2014). The program is applied locally and not uniformly nationally.
- Stray dogs are being captured and transferred to animal shelters or municipal or private veterinary clinics, being:
 - **Micro chipped**
 - Registered
 - Go through veterinary examination
 - **Surgically sterilized** and
 - Dewormed
 - Vaccinated against rabies (only for dogs older than 3 months of age)
 - Released in place or given up for adoption

II. Control measures



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- **Chemical euthanasia** is enforced in the cases of :
 - Dogs unable to survive in the environment by themselves (blind, paralyzed, over aged etc)
 - Dogs suffering from chronic illness (renal insufficiency etc) or transmittable incurable disease
 - Dogs that are dangerous.

III. Monitoring and evaluation

There are **yearly inspections** of municipal animal health care facilities.

- **Points of monitoring:**
 - Consistency in standardized procedures,
 - Law abidance
 - Environmental protection issues (waste treatment, cremator etc)
- **Points for intervention are highlighted.**
- **Reasons for non compliance are pointed (e.g. insufficient financing, human resources and technical tools) .**

IV. Conclusions and future needs

- The scientific personnel is aware of the need for a fully compliant stray dog population control scheme. However the fulfilment is dependent on **political decisions** and **sufficient financing**.
- The greatest problem in applying animal control programmes is to overcome the **tremendous pressures** exerted by various **animal welfare groups** that are unaware of public health issues and strategies and influence the national policies.

IV. Conclusions and future needs



Weak Points:

- Lack of a uniform policy of the Mediterranean countries for the control of zoonotic disease (e.g. Leishmaniasis and rabies)
- No financing of the Control Strategy from the EU.
- No cooperation between countries to press down illegal transport of animals (stray dog shipments from Greece are sent to Germany and Sweden skipping inspection from the local Authorities. This practice is condemned and should be stopped) .

IV. Conclusions and future needs





Thank you for your attention!