

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 Romania

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I. Understanding country situation- a



- Stray dogs are a current problem of the cities in Romania, less for the rural areas;
- Their main source is represented by the dogs which were abandoned in the early 80's by the owners forced to move in new homes, without yards (in that period the main cities in Romania have undergone massive demolition). Then, they reproduced and, in addition, other dogs were abandoned;
- The dogs number in our country is estimated at approximately 300 000 (source Vier Pfoten);
- In the last 3 years, the number of dogs was relatively constant, but since autumn 2013 legislative provisions were modified so we hope it will decrease;
- According to the national norms, each specialized stray dogs management service
 has to assess the number of stray dogs located within the jurisdiction of the
 administrative unit where they operate and to prepare an action plan to manage
 them

I. Understanding country situation - b



- The action plan has to include:
 - a) a presentation of the territory (surface area, number of inhabitants);
 - b) an assessment of the number of stray dogs (sterilized or not) within the jurisdiction of the territory;
 - c) a presentation of the necessary material resources (number of means of transport and their capacity, the total accommodation capacity, the accommodation capacity assigned to distance adopted dogs);
 - d) a presentation of the necessary staff resources (transportation staff, catching staff, caring staff);
 - e) a presentation of actions to be carried out;
 - f) a plan of actions (annual action schedule, broken down by months);
 - g) detailed maps of the territory including the distribution of the stray dog population;
 - h) precise deadlines for implementing measures;
 - i) deadlines for re-assessing the number of stray dogs within the jurisdiction of the territory to be assessed half-yearly.

I. Understanding country situation – cLegal framework



- Legislation on stray dogs management is drawn up taking into account the OIE recommendations (art. 7.7.5, point 3) and the recommendations of the European Convention for the protection of pet animals (the article on stray animals),
- Art. 1 of GD No. 1059/2013 says: "The purpose of these regulations is to reduce the number of stray dogs, improve the health and welfare of shelter dogs, stop uncontrolled breeding of mongrels, prevent dog abandonment and loss, facilitate the recovery of lost dogs, promote responsible dog ownership, reduce the chances for rabies and other zoonotic diseases, reduce human health risks, prevent human and animal aggressiveness, and reduce animal illegal trade and trafficking"
- In the national legislation there are legal provisions on: mandatory identification and registration of dogs, rabies vaccination for all the dogs, surgical interventions in animals, rules of possession of dangerous or aggressive dogs, registration of kennels, minimum conditions to be fulfilled by the stray dogs shelters. The framework law for animal protection also states that the owners have to provide the animals with: adequate shelters, water and food, the possibility for sufficient movement, care and attention, medical assistance

II. Control measures - a



- The dog population management program is promoted by several legal acts and it comprises provisions applicable to both owned and stray dogs
- The main stakeholders involved in the dog population management are:
 veterinary services perform the registration of the shelters for stray
 - dogs, the control of identification and registration, of the shelters etc;
 - -the free practice veterinarians carry out the identification and registration of dogs, rabies vaccination, sterilization of mongrels
 - -Local administration according to the needs, the local councils have shelters for the management of the canine population on the territory of administrative unit in question,
- The Police may check whether the dogs are identified, registered or sterilized, and may apply sanctions,
- NGOs,
- Dog owners.

II. Control measures - b



The main control measures provided for by the new legislation:

• The identification and registration of all dogs with an owner on Romanian territory – mandatory from January 1st, 2015 (in order to prevent abandonment),

• The mandatory sterilization of all common breed dogs and mongrels – starting with January 1st, 2015 (the minimum age for sterilization differs as follows: females - 4 to 6 months, males – 6 to 8 months) (in order to

prevent dog reproduction).



II. Control measures – cStray dog euthanasia



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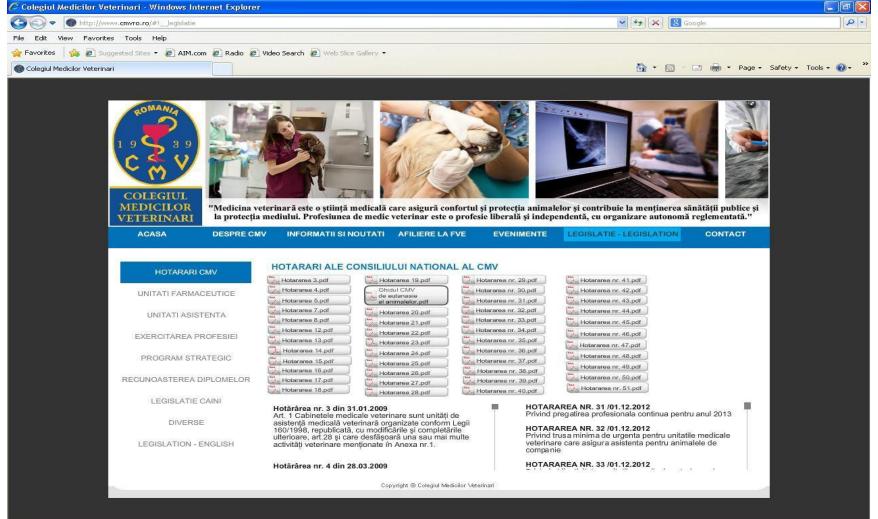
- incurably diseased animals may be euthanized immediately,
- healthy animals are kept in the shelter for 14 working days in order to be claimed back by owners, for adoption, long-distance adoption, or in order to be kept in the shelter at the expense of the local council.

After the expiry of the time-limit of 14 working days, the animals that were not claimed back, adopted, adopted at a distance or maintained in the shelter are euthanized.

Animal euthanasia is performed by a free practice veterinarian, legally organized, in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines on animal euthanasia approved by the College of Veterinarians, in line with OIE recommendations.

II. Control measures – dStray dog euthanasia





III. Monitoring and evaluation



- The National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority monitors and assesses the action plans drawn up by the services specializing in stray dog management,
- Recently, we have requested all local sanitary veterinary and food safety directorates (DSVSAs) to provide us with copies of such plans, in order to monitor them,
- The national inspection program provides for at least one inspection/year for each stray dog shelter.



IV. Conclusions and future needs - a



- As a conclusion, I consider that the Romanian legislation is in line with the provisions of the OIE recommendation on the control of stray dogs,
- A considerable challenge for Romania is the education of the population in order to prevent abandonment, identify and register all dogs, sterilize common breed dogs, as well as promote stray dog adoption.

IV. Conclusions and future needs - b



External aid:

- The promotion of long distance adoptions and of the adoption of dogs kept in shelters,
- Financial support for the identification, registration and sterilization of dogs in the rural area.



Thank you for your attention!

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