



**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 2009-2013 TURKEY**

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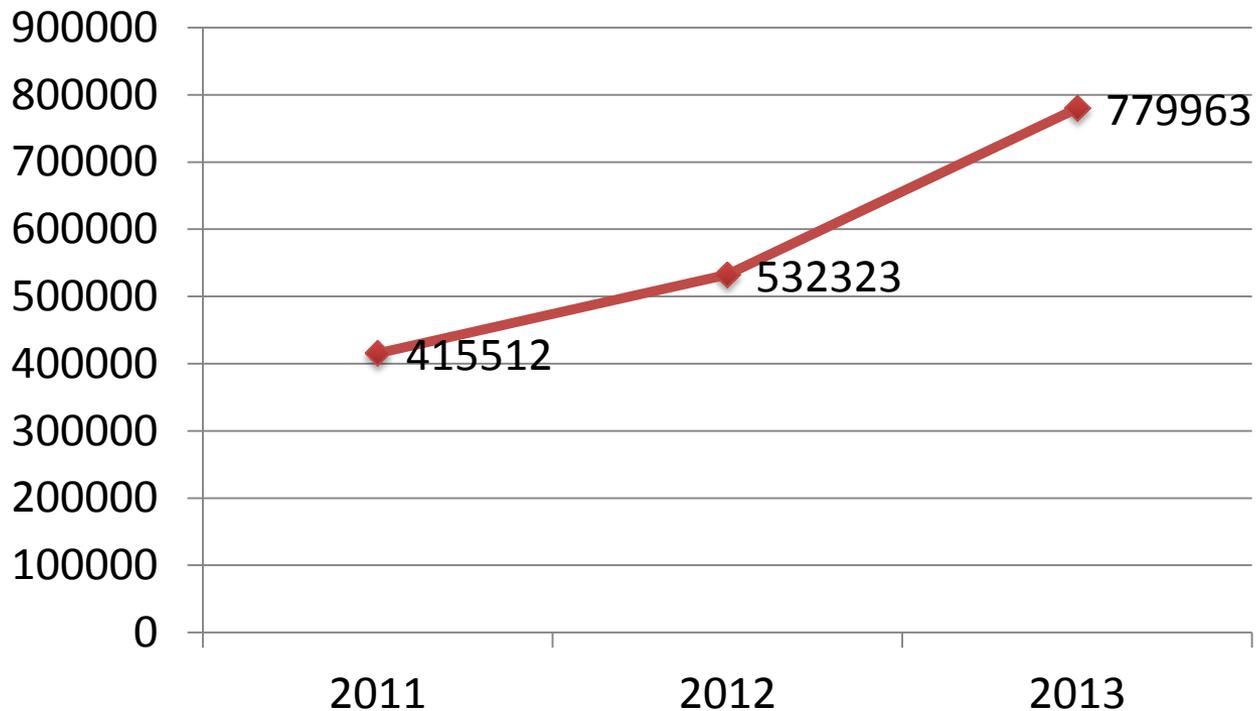
I. Understanding country situation

- **Do stray dogs pose a problem in your country?**
- **Stray dogs pose a problem in our country.**

- **Which is the estimated number of stray dogs in your country?**
 - a. **In 2009: 936.535**
 - b. **In 2010: 372.827**
 - c. **In 2011: 415.512**
 - d. **In 2012: 532.323**
 - e. **In 2013: 779.963**

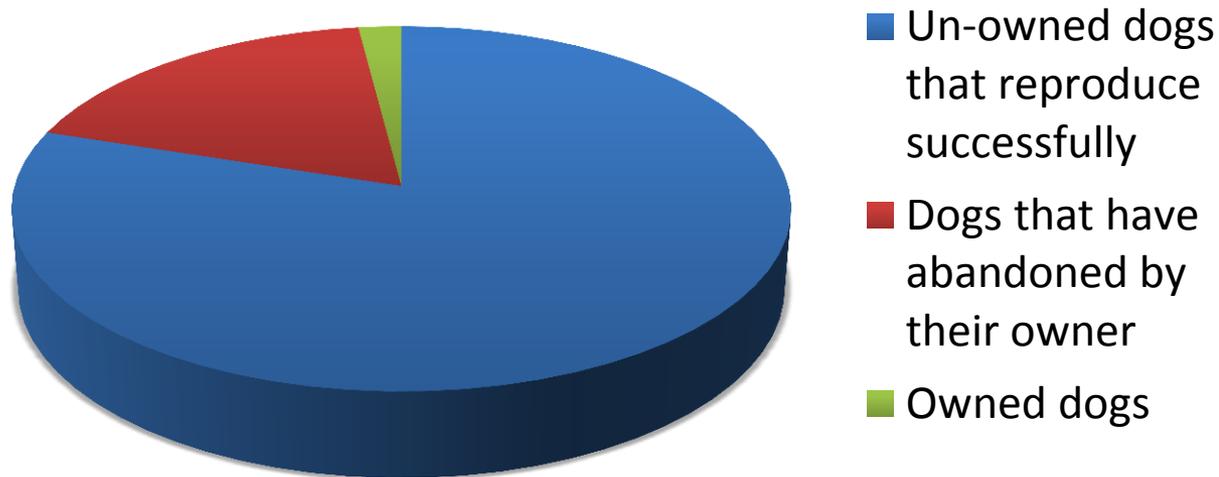
- **What are the trends (↗↘→) in the stray dog population observed over the past 3 years in your country?**
- **The stray dog population observed over the past 3 years in our country trends to increase.**

Trends in Stray Dog Population



- **How do you estimate the stray dog population in your country?**
- In our country the stray dog population have been estimated by direct observation.
- **Are the sources of stray dogs identified in your country?**
- The sources of stray dogs have been identified in our country and the main source of the stray dogs composed of un-owned dogs that reproduce successfully.

Percentages of stray dogs



- **Dog Population**
- Although there is no clear work for the population of cats and dogs in our country, some research and studies have been made particularly for the dog population.
- **Structure of the Population**
- In order to determine the dog population in Turkey, a project has been carried out with the contribution of WHO, on March and April of 1992 in Tekirdağ.
- According to this project outcomes about the dog density and structure of the population are as follows:
 - ✓ Average dog age is 3.1
 - ✓ %25 of the dog population is formed by the young ones.
 - ✓ There has been 1 dog for 3.8 person in rural areas, for 5.5 person in semi-rural areas and for more than 100 people in urban areas.
 - ✓ The dogs which are not collared comprise the %80 of dogs with owner in rural areas while they are around % 60 of dogs with owner in semi rural areas.
 - ✓ There is no ownerless dogs in villages and small towns.

- **The Researches for the Dog Population**

- There has been implemented 2 researches in June 2008 and in November 2008. (Bursa)
- At the first research, the average number of dogs with an owner or ownerless has been guessed. The number of dogs is approximately 81.500.

76.000 (%93) with an owner

5.500 (%7) with no owner

- **At the second research;** in Bursa the number of dogs which have owner is 81949. The ratio of dogs to the Household in City Center 1:17, District Center 1:7 and in villages 1:3
- The number of dogs is 23081 in city center, 14609 in 14 districts and 44259 in all villages of the city.
- The number of stray dogs in Bursa is 5917.

- **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)**
- **The regulatory framework that address stray dog population management in our country depends on the legal bases: 5996 The Law of Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed Law (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock)(11.06.2010); 5199 The Law of Animal Protection (Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry)(24.06.2004). These legal bases are in line with OIE recommendations that are depicted in article 7.7.5 point 3.**

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CHAPTER TWO

Identification and registration of animals,

ARTICLE 7 - (1) Animal owners or, on behalf of the animal owner, animal keepers are responsible for having the animals required to be identified by the Ministry duly identified, having their animals and holdings registered, notifying the Ministry of animals entering and leaving their holdings, newborn animals, and animals dead or slaughtered, and they shall keep the records regarding these procedures.

(3) Principles and procedures related to the implementation of this article shall be laid down in an implementing regulation to be promulgated by the Ministry.

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Principles

Article 4 - The main principles relating to the protection of animals and their living in comfort are as:

- In order to prevent uncontrolled reproduction, it is basic that sterilization of cats and dogs, which fed and sheltered collectively, is made by their owners.
- The owners who want to breed their animals, are liable for registering the newborns to the municipality and/or distributing.
- The local authorities are liable for the registration of the pet animals and stray animals.

The protection of the stray and incapacitated animals

Article 6 - The killing of stray or incapacitated animals is forbidden except the cases which specified in Animal Health and Inspection Act 3285.

- It is compulsory to take the stray or incapacitated animals immediately to the boarding homes established or allowed by the local authorities. These animals primarily shall be kept in the observation places in the mentioned homes. After they have been sterilized, vaccinated, rehabilitated and registered, it is essential that to bring back these animals to the place where they have been taken from.

5199

- The details for the application of the provisions which take place in Act 5199, have been identified by the Regulation.
- Application Regulation for the Protection of Animals have been issued on May 12, 2006.
- The collecting of the stray and incapacitated animals, their sterilization, vaccination, rehabilitation and registration and bringing back to the place where taken from or registration of the owners of the adopted ones are under the responsibility of Local Authorities.

- **Is rabies present in your country? Are stray dogs posing a threat with regard to rabies transmission to humans?**
- **Rabies is a notifiable disease in dogs in our country. Rabies is present in dog populations in our country and the prevalence of the disease in stray dogs is around 65-70 %. The stray dogs pose a threat with regard to rabies transmission to humans and there are recorded human cases originating from stray dog biting. The recorded human cases are as followed:**
 - **5 cases in 2013**
 - **1 case in 2012**
 - **No case in 2011**

II. Control measures

- **Is there a national dog population control strategy/programme in your country?**
- There is no regulatory national dog population control strategy or programme present now in our country.
- **Who are the main actors involved in national dog population control strategy/programme in your country?**
- **What are the main control measures implemented in your countries?**
- The collecting of the stray and incapacitated animals, their sterilization, vaccination, rehabilitation and registration and bringing back to the place where taken from or registration of the owners of the adopted ones are under the responsibility of Local Authorities.
- **Is stray dog euthanasia in place in your country?**
- There is no euthanasia taking place on stray dogs in our country depending on the legal base 5199, article 6. "The killing of stray or incapacitated animals is forbidden except the cases which specified in Animal Health and Inspection Act 3285."



III. Monitoring and evaluation

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

IV. Conclusions and future needs

- **What are the main weak points of your National Control Strategy?**
- Although the existence of legal arrangements, there have been important deficiencies in the application.
- There are some insufficiencies in the Act 5199.
- There have been no Department of Veterinary Services in most of the local authorities.
- There have been no veterinarians among the regular staff in most of the local authorities.
- The population of the stray animals has not been known exactly.
- Especially in coastal areas, the dogs or cats which have been bought in summer months are being left to the environment at the end of the season.
- Such practices take place in metropolis as well. (as a gift from the families to their children and after a period, being left to the streets.)
- Municipalities are not sufficiently sensitive to the stray animals.
- The non-governmental organizations sometimes do not cooperate with the municipalities and they do not take combined action.

- **Do you need external aid to address the weakness(es) with stray dogs in your country?**
- **Yes we do need external aid to address the weaknesses with stray dogs in our country and the needs are as followed:**
 - + **Need 1: To construct a national rabies project that is coherent with the One Health concept.**
 - + **Need 2: To construct project that is not only related to rabies but also that regulates the stray dog population in our country with the support of EU.**
 - + **Need 3: Financial support continuation from outside sources.**



Thank you for your attention!

