

## **Report on the OIE's International Standard on Stray Dog Population Control**

Guidance on the OIE's international standard on stray dog population control for APOs: Content, Implementation and Practical Impacts.

## Contents

### **1. OIE International Standard on Stray Dog Population Control – relevance and implications for Animal Protection Organisations (APOs)**

Including background on the standard, OIE processes, and ways in which APOs can use the standard in their work.

### **2. Contents of Standard**

Compares contents/provisions against other international recommendations.

### **3. Inclusion in Regional Animal Welfare Strategies**

Assessment of regional AW strategies, and whether they include stray dog population control. If they do, in what respect.

### **4. Policy and Legislative Coverage at Country Level**

Inclusion of standard/stray dog population control in national policies/strategies.  
*[Once included in regional AW strategy, this should work down to national level.]*

### **5. Recommendations for APOs**

Suggestions for APOs on how to use the OIE standard in advocacy in favour of humane stray dog population control, and as a potential vehicle for obtaining additional resources to planned programmes in this area. The annex provides a list of potential sources of support and guidance.

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Draft: 12 June 2015

## **Section 1: OIE International Standard on Stray Dog Population Control – relevance and implications for Animal Protection Organisations (APOs)**

### **Section 1: Background**

The animal welfare/animal protection policy environment is changing rapidly. Animal welfare science has increased understanding and acceptance of animal welfare and animal behaviour. This developing body of knowledge has increased the political importance of animal welfare - which is now debated in regional and international policy forums, and is also covered by a growing body of internationally, and regionally, accepted science-based standards, conventions, treaties, regulations, directives, agreements and strategies.

One major international driver of this change has been the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), which has a membership of 180 countries,<sup>i</sup> and is the global standard setting body for animal health. Animal welfare was first identified as a priority for the OIE in the OIE Strategic Plan 2001-2005. The 180 OIE Member Countries and Territories mandated the organisation to take the lead internationally on animal welfare and, as the international reference organization for animal health, to elaborate recommendations and guidelines covering animal welfare practices. Since 2005, the OIE has adopted an ever-increasing body of international animal welfare standards. These standards have been agreed by, and should be implemented by, each OIE Member Country. However, there remains a recognised gap between these standards and the actual situation on the ground in many countries.<sup>ii</sup>

The OIE stresses that it is a standard setting body, and not responsible for implementation. Despite this, it has been working to positively influence implementation - and made this the subject of its 'Third Global Conference on Animal Welfare' (Malaysia, November 2012).<sup>iii</sup> This conference produced a raft of useful recommendations on the implementation of the standards, including the need to work closely with donors and international and regional organisations to provide appropriate technical support to 'developing' countries.<sup>iv</sup> The political will and ability of countries to implement the standards are central to their value and importance.

This document aims to help animal welfare organisations to use the OIE's standard on stray dog population management:

- To advocate nationally, regionally and/or internationally for governments, Regional Economic Communities and international organisations (including development organisations) to work to implement stray population management measures that - at least - meet the OIE standard as a baseline (as all the OIE countries have agreed to this standard and have an obligation to implement it, and this will need the support and commitment of Regional Economic Communities and international organisations).
- To further APO advocacy to advance humane stray dog population management more broadly.
- As a potential vehicle for obtaining additional resources to support countries' work in this area.

The document covers:

- the OIE's standard on stray dog population control, including a comparison with other standards
- implementation of the standard at the regional and national level
- recommendations to animal protection organisations to encourage greater enforcement of the standard.

Annex 1 contains further detail on the standard including the timeline for adoption of the standard and major provisions/areas covered.

Annex 2 outlines OIE relationships and the process by which standards are created at the OIE.

## **Annex 1: OIE's International Standard on Stray Dog Population Control: Timeline and Major Provisions**

### ***Timeline – adoption of Chapter 7.7 on Stray Dog Population Control***

- 2001-2005: Animal welfare was first identified as a priority in the OIE Strategic Plan.<sup>v</sup>
- 2005: At the 73rd General Session the OIE decided to develop guidance for Members on humane methods for the control of stray animal populations.
- 2006: ad hoc Group convened under the leadership of the OIE Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group. With valuable assistance from the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare, a Questionnaire was developed and sent to OIE Members, of which 81 countries submitted responses.
- 2006: ad hoc Group prepared a first draft report, which notes the importance of controlling stray dog populations to help prevent zoonotic diseases and non-disease related nuisances to society and the environment.<sup>vi</sup>
- 2009: at the 77<sup>th</sup> General Session, Chapter 7.7. on Stray Dog Population Control was unanimously adopted and included in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.<sup>vii</sup>

### ***Major Provisions/Areas Covered***

Chapter 7.7. of the OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Code covers stray dog population control.

#### **Preamble**

- The scope of these recommendations is to deal with stray and feral dogs
- Human health, including the prevention of zoonotic diseases, notably rabies, is a priority.
- Dog population management is an integral part of rabies control programmes.
- The OIE recognises the importance of controlling dog populations without causing unnecessary animal suffering.
- Veterinary Services should play a lead role in preventing zoonotic diseases and ensuring animal welfare and should be involved in dog population control, coordinating their activities with other competent public institutions and/or agencies.

#### **Article 7.7.1. Guiding principles**

1. The promotion of responsible dog ownership
2. Control of dog populations has to be accompanied by changes in human behaviour to be effective.

These are in addition to guiding principles in Chapter 7.1. - Introduction to recommendations for animal welfare<sup>viii</sup>. Some relevant principles are mentioned below:

1. That there is a critical relationship between animal health and *animal welfare*.
2. That the internationally recognised 'five freedoms' (freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from fear and distress; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour) provide valuable guidance in animal welfare.
3. That the use of animals in agriculture, education and research, and for companionship, recreation and entertainment, makes a major contribution to the wellbeing of people.
4. That the use of animals carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure the welfare of such animals to the greatest extent practicable.

**Article 7.7.2. Definitions**

- Dog population control programme: means a programme with the aim of reducing a stray dog population to a particular level and/or maintaining it at that level and/or managing it in order to meet a predetermined objective (see Article 7.7.3.).

**Article 7.7.3. Dog population control programme objectives**

Objectives may include the following:

Population	Disease	Environment	Law
1. improve health and welfare of owned and stray dog population; 2. reduce numbers of stray dogs to an acceptable level; 3. promote responsible ownership;	1. assist in the creation and maintenance of a rabies immune or rabies free dog population; 2. reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases other than rabies; 3. manage other risks to human health (e.g. parasites);	1. prevent harm to the environment and other animals;	1. prevent illegal trade and trafficking.

**Article 7.7.4. Responsibilities and competencies**

	Stakeholder	Responsibility	Competency
1	Veterinary Authority	- implementation of animal health and animal welfare legislation, in coordination with other competent government agencies and institutions - setting up appropriate mechanisms for two-way communication with private sector veterinarians, often via the medium of a veterinary professional organisation	Provide technical advice for control of endemic zoonotic diseases would require technical advice
2	Other government agencies	depend on risk being managed and objective/nature of dog population control measures employed: - The ministry or other agency responsible for public health normally plays a leadership role and may have legislative authority in dealing with zoonotic diseases. - Local government authorities (or other agencies for public safety/security operating at the	

	Stakeholder	Responsibility	Competency
		<p>state/provincial or municipal level) - control of stray dogs with regard to other human health risks. (or this may be under public health agency).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment protection agencies may take responsibility for control problems associated with stray dogs when they present a hazard to the environment or where lack of environmental controls is giving rise to stray dog populations that threaten human health or access to amenities.</li> </ul>	
3	Private sector veterinarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide advice to dog owners or handlers.</li> <li>- follow the procedure established by the Veterinary Authority for responding to and reporting a suspected rabies case or a dog that is suffering from any other notifiable disease.</li> <li>- important role in disease surveillance because he/she might be the first to see a dog suffering from a notifiable disease such as rabies.</li> <li>- important role (often in liaison with the police and/or local authorities) in dealing with cases of neglect that can lead to problems with stray and mismanaged dogs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- dog health programmes and population control measures, including health testing, vaccination, identification, kennelling during the absence of the owner, sterilization and euthanasia.</li> </ul>
4	Non-governmental organisations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- potentially important partners of Veterinary Services in contributing to public awareness</li> <li>- helping to obtain resources for design and successful implementation of dog control programmes.</li> <li>- can supply local knowledge on dog populations and features of ownership, as well as expertise in handling and kennelling dogs and the implementation of sterilisation programmes.</li> <li>- can contribute, together with veterinarians and the</li> </ul>

	Stakeholder	Responsibility	Competency
			authorities in educating the public in responsible dog ownership.
5	Local government authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- many services and programmes that relate to health, safety and public good. In many countries:</li> <li>- legislative framework gives them authority in regard to aspects of public health, environmental health/hygiene and inspection/compliance activities.</li> <li>- development and enforcement of legislation relating to dog ownership (e.g. registration, microchipping, vaccination, leash laws, abandonment), the control of stray dogs (e.g. dog catching and shelters) and the alleviation of the problems stray dogs cause.</li> </ul>	
6	Dog owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- responsible for dog owned, and for any offspring it may produce, for duration of its life or until a subsequent owner is found.</li> <li>- ensure that the welfare of the dog, including behavioural needs, are respected and the dog is protected, as far as possible, from infectious diseases and from unwanted reproduction.</li> <li>- ensure that the dog's ownership is clearly identified and, where required by legislation, registered on a centralised database. All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that the dog does not roam out of control in a manner that would pose a problem to the community and/or the environment.</li> </ul>	

**Article 7.7.5.**

Establishment of an advisory group by authorities is recommended, consisting of: veterinarians, experts in dog ecology, dog behaviour and zoonotic diseases, and representatives of relevant

stakeholders (local authorities, human health services/authorities, environmental control services/authorities, NGOs and the public)

Objective of group: analyse and quantify the problem, identify the causes, obtain public opinion on dogs and propose the most effective approaches to use in the short and long term.

Important considerations are as follows:

1. Identifying the sources of stray dogs
2. Estimating the existing number, distribution and ecology
3. Regulatory framework
4. Resources available to authorities

#### **Article 7.7.6. Control measures**

The following control measures could be implemented according to the national context and local circumstances. Measures may be used in combination. Euthanasia of dogs, used alone, is not an effective control measure.

Education and legislation for responsible ownership.

Registration and identification of dogs (licensing).

Reproductive control: Any chemicals or drugs used in controlling reproduction should be shown to have appropriate safety, quality and efficacy for the function required and used according to the manufacturer's and Competent Authority's regulations. (Competent Authority means the Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of a Member Country having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the whole territory). In the case of chemical sterilants and contraceptives, research and field trials may need to be completed before use.

Removal and handling: The Competent Authority should collect dogs that are not under direct supervision and verify their ownership. Capture, transport, and holding of the dogs should be done humanely. The Competent Authority should develop and implement appropriate legislation and training to regulate these activities.

Capture and return, rehoming or release: Competent Authorities have the responsibility to develop minimum standards for the housing (physical facilities) and care of these dogs. There should be provision for holding the dogs for a reasonable period of time to allow for reunion with the owner and, as appropriate, for rabies observation. Dogs that are removed from a community may be too numerous or may be unsuitable for any rehoming scheme. If euthanasia of these unwanted animals is the only option, the procedure should be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the Competent Authority.

1. Environmental controls: Steps should be taken to exclude dogs from sources of food (e.g. rubbish dumps and abattoirs, and installing animal-proof rubbish containers). This should be linked to a reduction in the dog population by other methods, to avoid animal welfare problems.
2. Control of dog movement – international (export/import): Chapter 1.1. provides recommendations on the international movement of dogs, with respect to provisions for rabies.
3. Control of dog movements – within country (e.g. leash laws, roaming restrictions):

Measures for the control of dog movement in a country are generally invoked for the following reasons:

- a. for rabies control when the disease is present in a country;
- b. for public safety reasons;
- c. for the safety of 'owned dogs' in an area or locality when a stray dog control programme is in place;
- d. to protect wildlife and livestock.

It is necessary to have a regulatory framework and a national or local infrastructure comprising organisation, administration, staff and resources to encourage the finders of stray dogs to report to the Competent Authority.

4. Regulation of commercial dog dealers: Dog breeders and dealers should be encouraged to form or join an appropriate association. Such associations should encourage a commitment to the raising and selling of physically and psychologically healthy dogs, as unhealthy dogs may be more likely to be abandoned to become part of the stray population. They should encourage breeders and dealers to provide advice on proper care to all new owners of dogs. Regulations covering commercial dog breeders and dealers should include specific requirements for accommodation, provision of suitable food, drink and bedding, adequate exercise, veterinary care and disease control and may require breeders and dealers to allow regular inspection, including veterinary inspection.
5. Reduction in dog bite incidence: The most effective means of reducing prevalence of dog bites are education and placing responsibility on the owner. Dog owners should be educated in principles of responsible dog ownership as described in point 1 of Article 7.7.6. Legal mechanisms that enable the Competent Authorities to impose penalties or otherwise deal with irresponsible owners are necessary. Mandatory registration and identification schemes will facilitate the effective application of such mechanisms. Young children are the group at highest risk for dog bites. Public education programmes focussed on appropriate dog-directed behaviour have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing dog bite prevalence and these programmes should be encouraged. Authorities should seek advice from dog behaviour experts in developing dog safety education programmes.
6. Euthanasia: When euthanasia is practised, the general principles in the Terrestrial Code should be followed, with the emphasis on using the most practical, rapid and humane methods and ensuring operator safety. Regardless of the method used, it is important to minimise distress, anxiety and pain by ensuring that operators are appropriately trained.

#### **Article 7.7.7. Monitoring and evaluation of dog population control programmes**

1. The three main reasons for carrying out monitoring and evaluation are:
  - a. to help improve performance, by highlighting both problems and successful elements of interventions;
  - b. for accountability, to demonstrate that the programme is achieving its aims;
  - c. assuming methods are standardised, to compare the success of strategies used in different locations and situations.
2. Selection of suitable indicators requires clear planning of what the programme is aiming to achieve, the best selection of indicators will be one that reflects the interest of all relevant stakeholders
3. Elements that should generally be monitored and evaluated include:
  - a. dog population size, separated into sub-populations according to ownership and restriction of movement;
  - b. dog welfare, in the target population and as a result of the programme (if interventions involve direct handling of dogs, the welfare of the dogs as result of this handling should be monitored);
  - c. prevalence of zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, in both the animal and human population;
  - d. responsible animal ownership, including measures of attitudes and understanding of responsible ownership and evidence that this is translating into responsible behaviour.
4. The output of activities against budget should be carefully recorded in order to evaluate the effort (or cost) against the outcomes and impact (or benefit) that are reflected in the results of monitoring and evaluation.

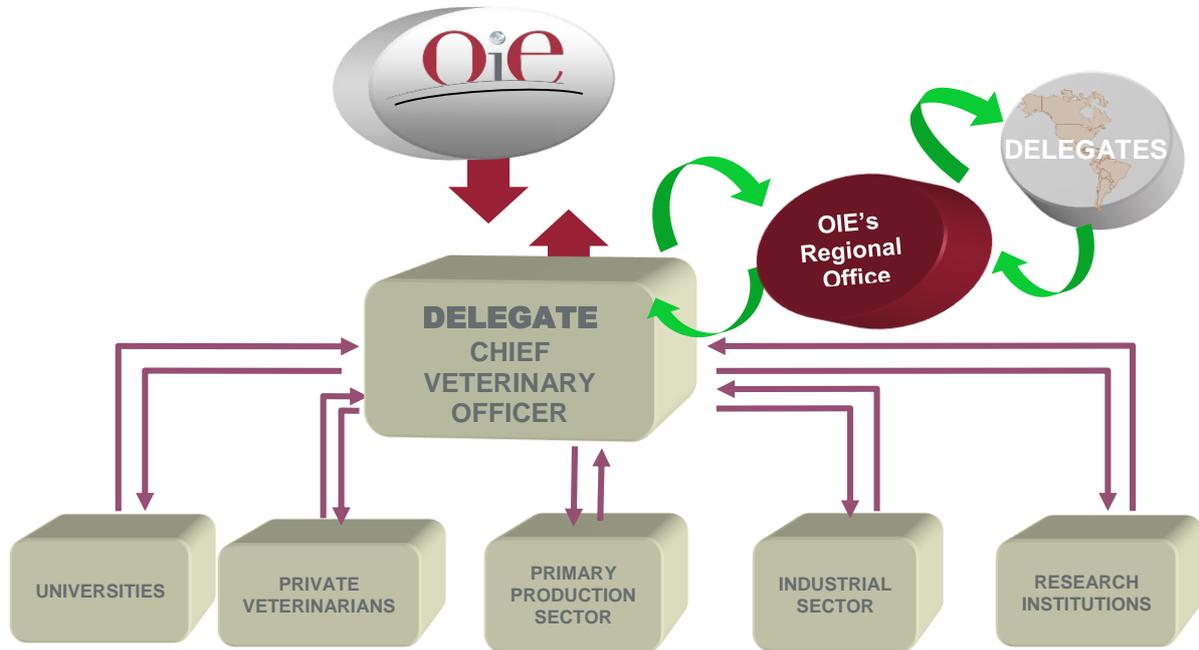
**Article 7.7.8. An overview of appropriate methods for estimating the size of dog populations**

For designing effective management plans, data on population sizes alone are insufficient. Additional information is required, such as degrees of supervision of owned dogs, the origin of ownerless dogs, accessibility, etc.

The choice of methods for assessing the size of a dog population depends on the ratio of owned versus ownerless dogs, which may not always be easy to judge. If the proportion of ownerless dogs is high or difficult to assess, then one should resort to more experimental approaches. Methods borrowed from wildlife biology can be applied. One should take into account that dog distribution is non-random, that their populations are not static, and that individual dogs are fairly mobile.

Since the dog populations of entire countries, states, provinces or even cities are much too large for complete assessment, it is necessary to apply assessment methods to sample areas. These should be selected (using common sense) so that results can be extrapolated to larger areas.

## Annex 2: OIE Relationships and Process by which Standards are Created



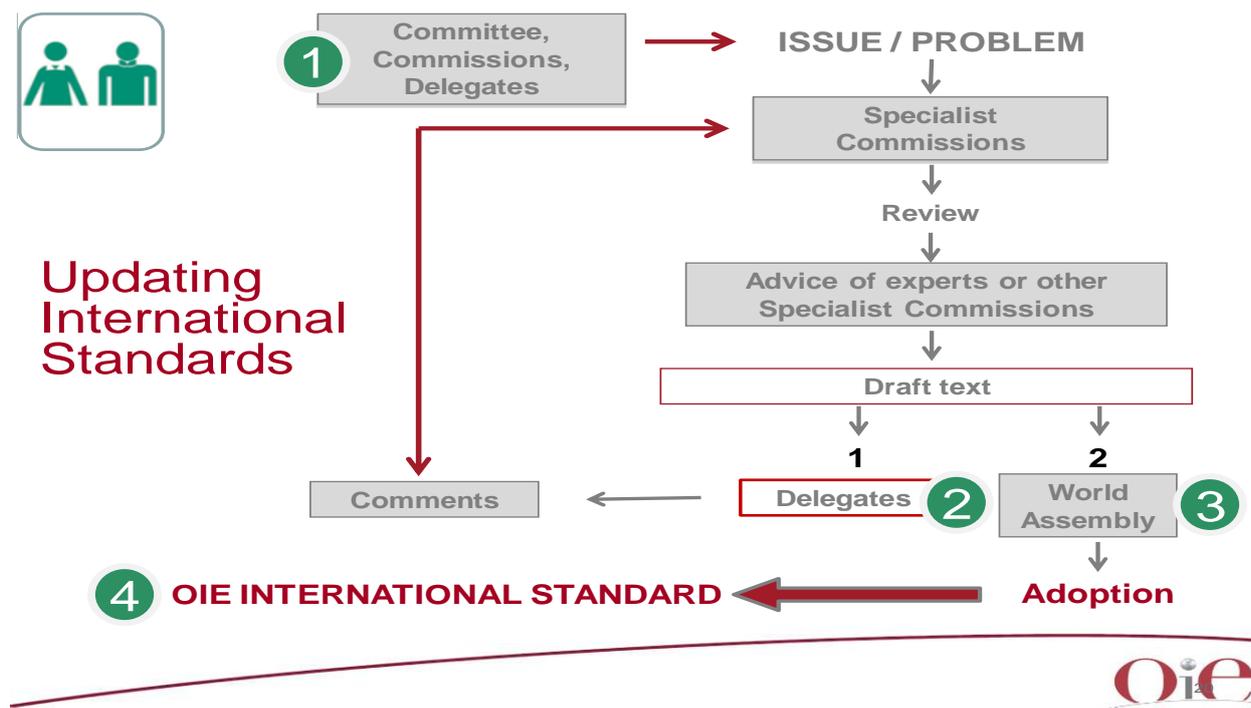
### *OIE relationships<sup>ix</sup>*

The OIE is recognised as the standard setting body for animal health and zoonoses, by the World Trade Organization agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Countries can set their own standards, and are urged to follow international standards and guidelines such as OIE standards. Members can also use higher standards if desired.

The organisation is controlled by the World Assembly of Delegates. These delegates are appointed by member country governments, and are usually the Chief Veterinary Officers of the country. The organisation is run by the director general, elected by the World Assembly of Delegates.

Delegates are asked to designate, if possible, national focal points to comply with national obligations and to support them: These include focal points for animal welfare.

Standards are developed through the following process:



There is only one pathway for the adoption of OIE standards, i.e. approval by the World Assembly, meeting annually at the OIE General Session.

Animal welfare falls under the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code) and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code, which set out global standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health. These Codes are important because<sup>x</sup>:

- They provide the results of consensus among the veterinary authorities of OIE Members
- They constitute a reference within the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures as an international standard for animal health and zoonoses.

The *Terrestrial Code* Chapter on stray dog population control falls within the OIE mandates for animal health, public health and animal welfare, as it addresses humane methods for the control of dog populations and the prevention of important zoonotic diseases, such as rabies and hydatidosis, in communities.<sup>xi</sup>

The development of standards happens as follows<sup>xii</sup>:

- Expert Groups are convened to develop draft texts for the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- The draft texts are normally reviewed by the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group
- This group provides recommendations to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission).
- Following review by the Code Commission, draft texts are sent to OIE Members for comment. There is an opportunity for Animal Welfare/Animal Protection stakeholders to comment at national level through their governments, and the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) provides comments directly to the OIE.

- After two rounds of comment, a draft text may be proposed for adoption in the *Terrestrial Code*, in accordance with the democratic and transparent standard setting procedures of the OIE.

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## Section 2: Comparison of OIE Standard with International Recommendations

As part of the process of deciding whether the OIE standard contains suitable guidance for APOs to recommend to governments, it was compared to other international recommendations on the same issue.

The results show that the OIE standard provides a good baseline that governments should implement to ensure adequate welfare for stray dogs (in the absence of higher standards).

Two documents were used for comparison:

1. ICAM Humane Dog Population Management Guidance<sup>xiii</sup>

(Note: The OIE Stray Dog Population Control guidelines and ICAM Humane Dog Population Management Guidance document have been written from different perspectives. The OIE guidelines appear to be directed at local agencies, while the ICAM guidelines focus more on NGOs and external (non-local) agencies. Therefore the need for being aware of local situations does not arise in the case of the OIE guidelines.)

There are some similarities between the ICAM and OIE documents – it is possible that one used elements of the other. The ICAM DPM document is due to be revised in 2015.

2. FAO/WSPA/IZSAM expert meeting report on dog population management<sup>xiv</sup>

Guidance from the perspective of a zoonotic disease was considered with the Canine Rabies Blueprint<sup>xv</sup>, which was created from the perspective of rabies elimination. However, it refers to the ICAM and OIE guidelines for dog population management. It states:

*Including dog population management programmes will depend on whether the number of unwanted dogs in the specific location is considered a problem by the community, which may not always be the case. Given the wide differences in composition and size of dog populations between and within countries, dog population management needs must be assessed before planning and implementing any intervention.*

	OIE	ICAM	FAO
<b>Guiding principles</b>			
Changes in human behaviour needed for DPM to be effective	x	X (additional emphasis on local beliefs, inconsistent messages, religion and culture)	X (Religious beliefs and specific cultural contexts need different DPM approaches)
The prevention and control of dog-transmitted zoonoses, enhances lives and livelihoods and contributes to poverty alleviation			x

	OIE	ICAM	FAO
<b>Objectives:</b>			
may include the following:			
1) improve health and welfare of owned and stray dog population;	X	x	x
2) reduce numbers of stray dogs to an acceptable level;	x	x	x
3) promote responsible ownership;	X	X	x
4) assist in the creation and maintenance of a rabies immune or rabies free dog population;	X	X	x
5) reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases other than rabies;(e.g. leishmaniosis and echinococcosis/hydatidosis)	X	x	X
6) manage other risks to human health (e.g. parasites);	X	x	x
7) prevent harm to the environment and other animals;	x	X	x
8) prevent illegal trade and trafficking	x		x
<b>Responsibilities and competencies:</b>			
1. Veterinary Authority	X	x	X
2. Other government agencies - The ministry or other agency responsible for public health - environment protection agencies	x	X (departments responsible for both writing and enforcing legislation)	X (civil servants – for long term approach)
3. Private sector veterinarians	X	X (national governing body, veterinary professional association, private practitioner clusters and university veterinary department)	X (awareness raising and capacity building on DPM needed for veterinarians)
4. Non-governmental organisations	X (Note: <i>organizing and/or supervising dog control schemes can be the</i>	X (local, national and international)	x

	OIE	ICAM	FAO
	<i>responsibility of non-governmental organizations)</i>	organisations working in animal welfare, animal rights and human health) – Note: <i>NGOs considering taking on responsibility for aspects of dog population management should ensure that they will be fully supported and resourced</i>	
5. Local government authorities	X	X	x
6. Dog owners	X	x	x
7. Government - tourism, education and sanitation. (Note: items in italics related to multi-stakeholder committee, not responsibilities - ICAM)		x	x
8. <i>Animal sheltering, fostering and rehoming community – both government/municipality-run and private/NGO-run organisations.</i>		x	x
9. <i>Academic communities with relevant experience e.g. animal behaviour, veterinary science, sociology, ecology and epidemiology.</i>		x	X
10. <i>Educators– in schools and universities.</i>		x	
11. <i>Local media – for education, publicity and local support</i>		x	x
12. <i>International bodies with relevant responsibilities – World Health Organisation (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and worldwide veterinary association</i>		x	x
13. <i>Local community leaders/representatives</i>		x	x
14. <i>Local community - non-owners.</i>	x	x	x
<b>Pre-programme assessment</b>			
Establish advisory group	X	X (stakeholder committee)	X (intersectoral committee)

	<b>OIE</b>	<b>ICAM</b>	<b>FAO</b>
1. Identifying the sources of stray dogs	X	X	X (including circumstances that lead to the intentional or forced mobility of people, such as military conflicts, civil unrest, natural disaster or the death of the owner; dog eating)
2. Estimating the existing number, distribution and ecology	X	X	X (KAP studies and sociology mentioned)
3. Regulatory framework	X	X	X (include international recommendations and regulations)
a) registration and identification of dogs and licensing of dog breeders;	X	X	X (also suggests national and regional database)
b) vaccination against rabies and other preventive measures against zoonotic diseases, as appropriate;	x	x	x
c) veterinary procedures (e.g. surgical procedures);	X	X	x
d) control of dog movement (national and international);	X		x
e) control of dangerous dogs;	X	X	
f) regulations on the breeding and sale of dogs;	X	x	X
g) environmental controls (e.g. abattoirs, rubbish dumps, dead stock facilities);	x	x	x
h) regulations for dog shelters;	x		X
i) animal welfare obligations of owners and authorities.	x	x	x
4. Resources available to authorities	X	X (additional text about fundraising for NGOs)	X (suggests creation of animal control officers; also shelter operators, animal handlers, vet technicians –

	OIE	ICAM	FAO
			govt or otherwise – formal training, increase status of DPM professionals – <b>capacity building</b> )
<b>Control measures</b>			
1. Education and legislation for responsible ownership	X (education for owners about the animals' needs not mentioned in context of education)	X (education should be done by trained professionals)	X (include costs of RPO; inclusion of dogs in emergency preparedness and response; mentions prevention of echinococcosis by not feeding dogs uncooked offal)
2. Registration and identification of dogs (licensing)	X	X (could also be used to encourage responsible ownership by requesting that people complete a 'certificate in dog ownership' before they are granted a licence to own a dog)	X (also registration of the premises where animals are held; recording of the animals' movements from birth to death. One benefit of annual dog-owning licensing fees may be to encourage verification of registration at least once a year.)
3. Reproductive control	X	x	x
4. Removal and handling	X	x	x
5. Capture and return, rehoming or release	X	x	X (dog management zones suggested for roaming dogs)
6. Environmental controls	X	x	x
7. Control of dog movement — international (export/import)	X		x
8. Control of dog movements — within country (e.g. leash laws, roaming restrictions)	X	x	
9. Regulation of commercial dog dealers	X	x	x

	OIE	ICAM	FAO
10. Reduction in dog bite incidence (through education)	X	x	x
11. Creating legislation and education about legislation for authorities		x	X (suggests using the One Health concept to engage them if needed)
12. Vaccination and treatment	X	X	X (mobile/field clinics where needed)
13. Euthanasia	<p>X (Does not say anything about mass killing being ineffective for disease control and DPM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Penetrating captive bolt followed by pithing where necessary to ensure death</li> </ul> <p><i>Not mentioned in WSPA manual:</i></p> <p><i>Unacceptable methods:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chloroform</li> <li>- Air embolism on conscious animal</li> <li>- Burning</li> <li>- Exsanguination of conscious animal</li> <li>- Hypothermia, rapid freezing</li> </ul>	<p>X (separate ICAM Euthanasia guidelines from WAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As there is a high risk of mis-stunning through inadequate use of the penetrating captive bolt, and hence causing pain and distress, WSPA considers this an unacceptable method for the euthanasia of dogs and cats</li> </ul> <p><i>Methods for the euthanasia of dogs and cats: comparison and recommendations -World Society for the Protection of Animals. Last access 8 Feb 2015 <a href="http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/Methods%20for%20the%20euthanasia%20of%20dogs%20and%20cats-%20English.pdf">http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/Methods%20for%20the%20euthanasia%20of%20dogs%20and%20cats-%20English.pdf</a></i></p>	X

	<b>OIE</b>	<b>ICAM</b>	<b>FAO</b>
	<p>Because neonatal animals and adults with impaired breathing or low blood pressure are resistant to hypoxia, methods that depend upon achieving a hypoxic state (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, N<sub>2</sub>, Ar) should not be used. These methods should not be used in animals aged less than 2 months, except to produce loss of consciousness and should be followed by another method to cause death.</p> <p>Unacceptable – electrocution in conscious animals</p>	<p>Unacceptable for all ages - CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, N<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>/Ar mixtures</p> <p>Unacceptable – electrocution (no mention of acceptability in unconscious animals)</p>	
<b>Monitoring &amp; evaluation</b>		<i><b>ICAM document on indicators to be launched in March - very detailed. Not a very long section in the OIE, and it's generally sound</b></i>	
<i>Reasons:</i>			
a) to help improve performance	x	x	X
b) for accountability	x	x	
c) to compare success of different strategies	x		X (cost-benefit analysis to determine cost-effective intervention strategies)
<b>Methods of estimating population</b>			
Dog registration records	X	X	X
Household surveys	x	X	X

	<b>OIE</b>	<b>ICAM</b>	<b>FAO</b>
Direct observation and the application of mark-recapture techniques	X	x	x

### **References**

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<sup>xiii</sup> [http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/Humane\\_Dog\\_Population\\_Management\\_Guidance\\_English.pdf](http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/Humane_Dog_Population_Management_Guidance_English.pdf) Accessed 28 May 2015

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4081e.pdf> Accessed 28 May 2015

<sup>xv</sup> <http://caninerabiesblueprint.org/> Accessed 28 May 2015

## **Section 3: Inclusion in Regional Animal Welfare Strategies**

An increasing number of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS) have now been agreed, or are being formulated, to provide overarching guidance and agreed frameworks for countries in the region for implementation of OIE standards, and also to serve as a basis for developing action plans. Regional strategies are important because they chart the progressive development of Animal Welfare (AW) across a region, including the implementation of the OIE AW standards.

The need for a global AW strategy was raised at the OIE's Third Global Conference on Animal Welfare in 2012.<sup>xvi</sup> This is being drafted at the time of writing, and will be of major importance – not only in terms of the OIE's work, but also in establishing the direction and priorities for the development of AW internationally.

### ***Asia, the Far East and Oceania***

The first RAWS to be completed was that covering Asia, the Far East and Oceania (AFEO)<sup>xvii</sup>

This strategy relates to the care of, use of, and direct impact of human activity on all sentient species of animals in the region. However, the emphasis of the AFEO RAWS remains the welfare of farm animals according to OIE standards and guidelines. Stray dog control is only covered in the introduction, where the existing OIE standards are mentioned.

The AFEO RAWS covers four goals, in brief:

1. Coordination, communication, education and training.
2. A coordinated regional approach and commitment to implementation.
3. Regional and international research and development.
4. Development of sustainable mechanisms to coordinate and promote animal welfare programs and priorities.

### ***The Americas***

The RAWS for the Americas has now also been concluded.<sup>xviii</sup>

The Americas RAWS covers the care, use and impact of human activities on all animal species considered in the OIE animal welfare standards, with an initial emphasis on farmed animals. It specifically mentions that it also covers control of stray dogs, in accordance with the standards and guidelines established by the OIE.

The RAWS includes six goals, covering:

1. Promoting the implementation of the OIE standards on animal welfare through a coordinated regional approach.
2. Coordination, communication, education and capacity building.
3. Regional and international research.
4. The coordination and promotion of animal welfare programs in accordance with regional priorities.
5. Stakeholder alliances to facilitate the implementation of OIE standards.
6. Promotion of participation in the OIE standards setting process.

Goal 4 covering the coordination and promotion of animal welfare programs may be applicable to stray dog control, if this is considered a regional priority. However, there is nothing more specific on stray dog control.

### **Europe**

Europe has a 'three year Action Plan' under the aegis of the OIE Regional Platform on animal welfare for Europe, covering the period 2014-2016, that will focus on stray dog population control among other issues.

See: [http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/aw\\_platform/en\\_oie\\_awf.htm](http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/aw_platform/en_oie_awf.htm)<sup>xix</sup>  
[http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/aw\\_platform/doc/CN%20Platform%20for%20AW%20\(Final%20version\).pdf](http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/aw_platform/doc/CN%20Platform%20for%20AW%20(Final%20version).pdf)<sup>xx</sup>

The goal of the Action Plan is to assist OIE Member Countries in Eastern Europe to progressively comply with OIE standards on animal welfare and animal health. This includes: legislation, strengthening veterinary services, capacity building (training and seminars), stakeholder engagement and the development of an electronic platform for dialogue and exchange on best practices. This has led to the development of a roadmap for stray dog control, and a self-assessment and monitoring tool to assess progress on this roadmap.<sup>xxi</sup> These processes and tools could be of potential in other regions to help them comply with OIE standards.

The activities of the Platform will be funded mostly by the European Commission and EU Member States.

### **Middle East**

As regards the Middle East, some progress appears to have been made towards a RAWS for the region at the OIE Focal Points Seminar which took place in Jordan in March 2014.<sup>xxii</sup>

Stray dog control is not specifically mentioned in connection with points to be included in the RAWS, but it was reported that there had been an improvement in the compliance of national legislation of the majority of member countries - especially those related to transport and handling, stray dogs control and humane killing for slaughter.

The need for the following goals was agreed at the seminar:

- 1: Regional approach and commitment to ensure high standards of animal welfare based on a legislative framework and standards consistent with the OIE Animal Welfare Guidelines.
- 2: Funding, coordination and evaluation to support improvements in animal handling systems.
- 3: Training and development in animal handling, requirements for facilities, product quality and disease management.
- 4: Regional and international research and development.
- 5: Effective communication, education and training.

### **Africa**

The situation for Africa has not progressed at continental level, as there is not yet sufficient political will to formulate a pan-African strategy. So work has been started at sub-regional levels, with the eventual aim being the development of a pan-African strategy when credible progress has been made sub-regionally. Indeed, a pan-African strategy is supported by the African Union (AU).

There were also funding problems which delayed the progress and direction of sub-regional strategies. The only source of funding found for this work thus far is the AU's Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VET-GOV) programme (which is EU funded). However, the OIE cannot be funded by the VET-GOV programme itself (as it is part of its committee), which meant that the sub-regional RAWS have to be taken forward by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) instead.

At the time of writing, the situation is that:

- **Southern Africa** – all research and analysis done and accepted by the Southern African Development Community (SADC), but not yet funded and agreed.
- **Inter Governmental Authority of Development (IGAD)** - VET-GOV funding granted for the development of an AW action plan/strategy (with World Animal Protection and Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance involvement). The strategy for IGAD has not yet been researched and analysed (*The East African Community (EAC) is observing progress on this, and may follow suit subsequently*).
- **Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)** – Ghana has taken the lead as an AW 'champion' for the region, the research and analysis has been completed, but the project has not yet been adopted by ECOWAS.

The analysis and drafts for SADC and West Africa both indicate that stray dog control is a priority. In addition to general recommendations covering areas such as legislation and enforcement, capacity building and education and awareness, they recommend collaborative practical programmes on stray dog control.

This work by African RECs in animal welfare also raises the question of the role of RECs in other parts of the world as regards animal welfare (and stray dog control).

## References

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<sup>xvi</sup>Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare Implementing the OIE Standards – addressing regional expectations Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), 6–8 November 2012 Recommendations. [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Conferences\\_Events/docs/pdf/recommendations/kuala\\_aquatic/A\\_Recommendations\\_Animal\\_Welfare\\_conference.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Conferences_Events/docs/pdf/recommendations/kuala_aquatic/A_Recommendations_Animal_Welfare_conference.pdf) Accessed 27 February 2015.

<sup>xvii</sup>OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Asia, the Far East and Oceania. 2013-2015. Edition 2.

<http://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D13010.PDF> Accessed 27 February 2015.

<sup>xviii</sup>Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for the Americas. V2 – 03/01/2013. <http://www.rr-america.oie.int/docs/ESTRATEGIA%20REGIONAL.pdf>. Accessed 27 February 2015.

<sup>xix</sup>OIE Regional Platform on animal welfare in Europe. Accessed 27 February 2015.

<sup>xx</sup>Concept Note: Proposed action to support OIE Member Countries in Eastern Europe in the implementation of the OIE standards on animal health and welfare. (Final version endorsed during the 81st OIE General Session in May, 2013). [http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/aw\\_platform/doc/CN%20Platform%20for%20AW%20\(Final%20version\).pdf](http://web.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/aw_platform/doc/CN%20Platform%20for%20AW%20(Final%20version).pdf) Accessed 27 February 2015.

<sup>xxi</sup> <http://oiestraysdogs.izs.it/limesurvey/w/p2/index.html>

<sup>xxii</sup> Animal Welfare Strategy for the Middle East. OIE. Focal Points Seminar Amman Jordan 17-18 March 2014.

<http://www.rr-middleeast.oie.int/download/presentation/AW%20Jordan%202014/Final%20Report%20Animal%20Welfare%20Amman%202014.pdf> Accessed 27 February 2015.

## Section 4: Policy and Legislative Coverage at Country Level

Compliance with the OIE stray dog control standard varies considerably across countries. A 2010 study<sup>xxiii</sup> found that the intensity of the free-roaming dog problem was negatively correlated with the value of the UN's human development index for each country. Dog bites, dog attacks and rabies were the main associated issues, and these problems were reported disproportionately by less-developed countries. Dog control programmes existed more widely in more-developed countries. In less-developed countries, such programmes, where they existed, tended to employ inhumane killing methods.

Rabies is an entirely preventable disease, with known interventions. Prevention of human rabies and control of canine rabies has been successful in North America, Western Europe, a number of Asian countries and many Latin American countries (with Latin America working towards elimination in 2015)<sup>xxiv</sup>.

Most countries have some form of stray dog population control built into their legislation. The main differences are related to:

- Extent to which animal welfare issues are considered
- Compliance with and enforcement of legislation

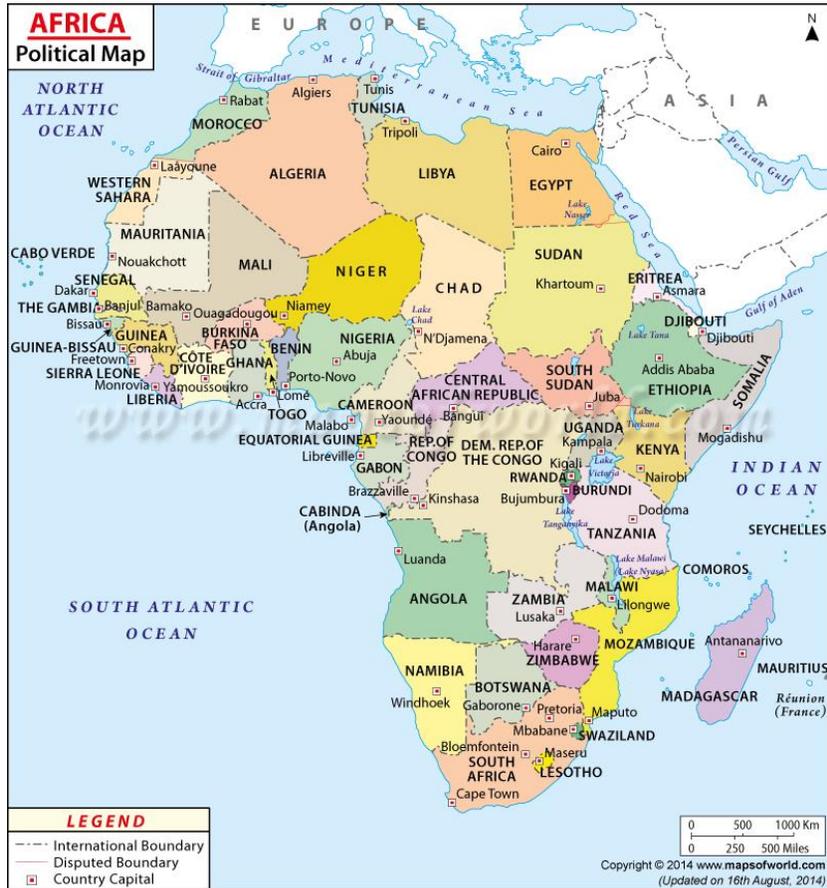
In order to get a truly accurate picture of compliance with OIE standards and stray dog control legislation for each country, a database that contains this information is needed. Work is currently being done on this issue by different entities.

The OIE has started collecting information in Balkan countries to help them to become compliant with the OIE standard on stray dog population control by 2025 (<http://oiestraydogs.izs.it/limesurvey/w/p2/objectives.html>). Countries will develop national roadmaps and use a self-assessment and monitoring tool to measure progress.

There are 5 regions in which the OIE maintains Representations – Africa, Europe, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas, and the Middle East. The annex below summarises the policy and legislative coverage in selected countries in these regions. All the information has been taken from World Animal Protection's Animal Protection Index,<sup>xxv</sup> (<http://api.worldanimalprotection.org>), which also includes compliance and enforcement.

## Annex

### AFRICA:



North Africa (OIE Sub Regional Representation for North Africa has been established to cover the five member countries of the OIE in the region (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia)

- [Algeria](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Morocco](#)

East Africa (OIE Sub Regional Representation for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa - Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda)

- [Ethiopia](#)
- [Kenya](#)
- [Tanzania](#)

West and Central Africa (Regional Animal Health Center (RAHC) for West and Central Africa – with FAO)

- [Niger](#)
- [Nigeria](#)

South Africa (The OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Southern Africa was established in 2005 in Gaborone (Botswana) to cover all 15 member countries of, as well as to liaise with the regional economic community, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which also has its headquarters in Gaborone. The SADC member countries are: Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania (see East Africa above, Tanzania is in both regions), Zambia and Zimbabwe)

- [South Africa](#)

**EUROPE:**



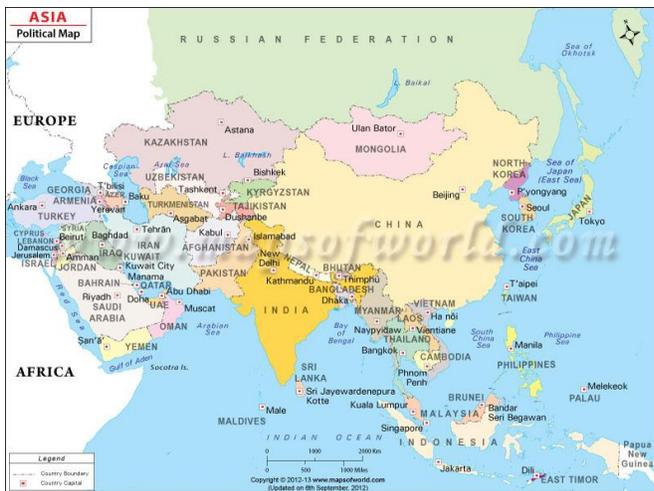
- the Regional Representation for Eastern Europe (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- the OIE Regional Representation in Moscow (Russia)
- the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels (Belgium)

<http://www.rr-europe.oie.int>

- [Belarus](#)
- [Denmark](#)
- [France](#)
- [Germany](#)
- [Italy](#)
- [Netherlands](#)
- [Poland](#)

- [Romania](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [Spain](#)
- [Sweden](#)
- [Switzerland](#)
- [Turkey](#)
- [Ukraine](#)
- [UK](#)

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:



### OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia

- [Azerbaijan](#)
- [China](#)
- [India](#)
- [Indonesia](#)
- [Iran](#)
- [Japan](#)
- [Korea](#)
- [Malaysia](#)
- [Myanmar](#)
- [Pakistan](#)
- [Philippines](#)
- [Thailand](#)

- [Vietnam](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [New Zealand](#)

## Americas



OIE Regional Representation for the Americas  
OIE Sub-Regional Representation for Central America  
[http://www.rr-americas.oie.int/in/index\\_in.htm](http://www.rr-americas.oie.int/in/index_in.htm)

- [Argentina](#)
- [Brazil](#)

- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Mexico
- Peru
- Uruguay
- USA
- Venezuela

#### MIDDLE EAST:



#### Middle East Regional Representation

(Members – Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, UAE, Yemen, Palestinian National Authority (Observer, Non member country )

<http://www.rr-middleeast.oie.int/viewpage.asp?ID=521>

Note: Iran is covered under the OIE Asia and Pacific region, and Turkey is covered under the OIE Europe region. None of the other countries mentioned above are covered in the Animal Protection Index.

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#### North Africa

**Algeria:** Legislation on rabies control permits government culling of feral dogs and wild animals within areas where there are rabies cases, with no welfare considerations. There is no legislation on RPO or rabies prevention.

**Egypt:** Animals are only protected from killing or poisoning, and although there is an anticruelty provision, it is unclear if dogs come under it. There are no welfare issues covered in legislation. The government via the General Organisation for Veterinary Services, a body that falls under the Ministry of Agriculture, carries out systematic poisoning and shooting of stray dogs, but are believed to be trialling more humane methods of population control such as sterilisation

A recent Ministerial decree establishes a national veterinary council which includes participation of civil community including those who work in animal welfare.

**Morocco:** The law prohibits poisoning guard dogs, and unnecessarily killing or maiming guard dogs and pets on the animal's owner's land. It also covers the health of companion animals. There is a proposed new law that protects animals from ill treatment and abusive use, particularly companion animals.

#### East Africa

**Ethiopia:** The law has basic provisions against public displays of cruelty. It is reported that the government uses poisoning as a method of stray dog population control.

**Kenya:** Companion animals are covered in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, which empowers authorities to humanely destroy a diseased or severely injured animal without the owner's consent. However, the Rabies Act permits authorised personnel within a rabies control area to "shoot or otherwise destroy" any stray dog found in a public place, or which is suspected of being infected with rabies. Humane killing methods are not necessitated in the legislation, and the use of poison is allowed in the case of an outbreak or suspected outbreak of rabies.

The first international Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance Conference was held in Nairobi in September 2013. The conference was attended by a number of Kenyan government officials, who committed to addressing the shortcomings in animal welfare in Kenya, and stated that a review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1962 was underway.

**Tanzania:** In legislation, there are cruelty offences which apply to companion animals. The Animal Welfare Act 2008 provides that a person who keeps or looks after a companion animal is responsible for that animal's complete health and welfare and has a duty to care for that animal's well-being. Dogs and cats may only be sold in pet shops and other businesses offering animals within the scope of their business activity. Commercial breeders must be licensed. The Act also regulates the establishment of pounds. Although the legislation follows good international practice, questions remain over implementation and dealing with problems associated with stray/feral/roaming dogs. There also appears to be a lack of enforcement mechanisms within the existing legislation.

#### West and Central Africa

**Niger:** The mistreatment of animals, whether done publicly or not, is forbidden, and acts of cruelty or ill-treatment, deliberate or otherwise without intention, of domestic animals are punishable offences. There are no national regulations on stray population control. The government of Niger has not transposed the majority of the OIE's standards into policy or legislation, including stray control.

**Nigeria:** It is not only a criminal offence to cause suffering to an animal, but as an animal owner, it is a criminal offence to permit such suffering to be caused to any animal. The government has taken some steps towards the production of legislation on animal protection. However, it has not transposed the majority of the OIE's standards into policy or legislation, including those on stray dog control.

#### South Africa

**South Africa:** The anti-cruelty provisions of the Animal Protection Act 1962 apply to companion animals. The Act prohibits activities involved with dog fighting. There appears to be no legislation regarding stray

population control, but the government has confirmed during consultation that provisions are currently considered under a National Animal Pounds Bill.

Implementation and enforcement is devolved to the Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and police forces in the provinces. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has adopted the revised OIE definition of animal welfare, supports the OIE terrestrial code on animal welfare including the five basic freedoms, the guiding principles, and scientific and ethical basis for any policy and guidelines. South Africa has an OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point. The current draft of the animal welfare strategy for the country relies heavily on transposing and developing the OIE standards into a comprehensive review of codes and legislation.

## **Europe**

**Belarus:** There is no evidence of existing provisions in legislation dedicated to the care and protection of companion animals. There are a number of laws and ministerial orders in relation to animals that can be killed or destroyed for rabies control, including dogs. No evidence was found on relevant legislation of disease control methods other than culling, and the existing provisions on culling do not appear to mandate humane methods of killing.

**Denmark:** Denmark has ratified the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, and the Animal Welfare Act 2013 covers the provisions of this Convention concerning issues including commercial trade, surgical interventions, killing and rules on stray animals. Laws on commercial trade and breeding of dogs and kennels and dog shelters also entered into force in 2013, requiring written instructions on the husbandry and care of dogs to be given to purchasers of dogs.

The government promotes the humane care and treatment of companion animals. The OIE's guiding principles for animal welfare are incorporated by legislation in Denmark. The government has also transposed European Union Regulations and Directives which cover the areas included within the OIE standards.

Denmark also has an OIE collaborating centre engaging on the issue of research and training in population animal health diagnosis and surveillance systems. The government has provided funding to the OIE to support standard and capacity development in developing countries with respect to assisting developing countries to implement OIE sanitary and phytosanitary standards. One of the goals of the project is to strengthen national veterinary services, which are in charge of the implementation of the OIE's standards at national level. Denmark is a member of the OIE's Regional Platform for Europe.

**France:** The law prohibits cruelty, abuse and mistreatment of animals. France has ratified the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals. Legislation encompasses issues concerning the ownership and control of dangerous dogs and requirements for all dogs to be registered and identified. Mayors are responsible for ensuring that there are facilities for stray animals and procedures for collecting such animals. Mayors are also required to institute measures to prevent stray dogs and cats by requiring dogs in the town to be leashed and muzzled. There is a lack of imposition of a duty of care on those responsible for animals combined with a lack of serious penalties for many acts of mistreatment or neglect of animals. With respect to the OIE's animal welfare standards France has transposed European Union Regulations and Directives which cover the areas included within the OIE's standards. The international headquarters of the OIE are based in France. France also has an OIE collaborating centre based in Montpellier engaging on issues concerning diagnosis, epidemiology and control of animal diseases in tropical regions. France is a member of the OIE's Regional Platform for Europe.

**Germany:** The law includes prohibitions on abandonment, training for aggression and giving animals as prizes, together with a duty of care.. It is reported that stray dogs are not permitted to be killed in Germany if they are healthy, which appears to result from the prohibition against killing an animal without reasonable cause. Policy and legislation is kept up to date with European Union requirements and the government has a detailed strategy in reference to improving animal welfare in Germany and through the European Union.

The OIE collaborating centre for Zoonoses in Europe is based in Germany. The German government and in particular the Ministry of Food and Agriculture take leading stances on animal welfare at a regional and international level.

**Italy:** The law prohibits keeping animals in conditions which cause great suffering. It also prohibits abandonment of pets, and killing of stray dogs unless the animal is affected by an incurable disease or is a proven danger, and this can be performed only by a veterinarian. The law also requires the registration of dogs.

Each province has an official appointed to the Office of Animal Rights. This role is primarily concerned with reducing the numbers of abandoned pets and addressing stray animal issues. Through transposition of the requirements of European Union Directives, the government has generally incorporated the OIE's guiding principles and standards into legislation. There are four OIE Collaborating Centres based in Italy. The Teramo Institute undertakes research on animal welfare and organises training for veterinarians.

**Netherlands:** General anti-cruelty and duty of care provisions exist, along with regulations to provide processes and protocols around the registration of such activities as well as guidelines on housing and care, breeding and vaccination. Although no evidence was found of secondary legislation or guidelines on stray population control, it is understood that this is not an issue in the country. Legislation on companion animals and the distribution of information about responsible ownership aim to prevent any problems with strays. In 2011 the government set up its first animal police division, working to address cruelty to animals and animal neglect. The legislation in the Netherlands incorporates European Union legislative requirements, which include many of the OIE's guiding principles and standards on animal welfare and further builds on them in some areas. There are four expert Reference Laboratories to the OIE based in the Netherlands. The National Information Centre for Pets, made possible by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and various universities, provides pet owners with expert advice relating to pets.

**Poland:** There are general anti-cruelty provisions. Particularly relevant are the prohibitions on intentional mutilation, keeping animals in inadequate conditions, and abandonment.

Stray population control is the responsibility of individual municipalities. Provisions for the capture of stray animals lay down the legal framework for this. Municipal councils are required to produce an annual program to care for stray animals and to take prevention measures against stray populations. The existing legislation does contain the basic mandates of the OIE standards. However there is no development of initiatives to cover standards found in stray population control, or killing of animals for disease control purposes. There is an OIE laboratory in Poland, but no OIE collaborating centres or offices. Poland is a member of the OIE's Regional Commission for Europe.

**Romania:** Anti-cruelty provisions exist; particularly relevant are the prohibitions on abandoning animals and on removing puppies from their mother before eight weeks of age. The management of stray dogs is dealt with by separate legislation, which appears to create an exemption from the provisions of that law for this activity. A Governmental Decision made a commitment for the government to follow the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals and also to limit or restrict culling and legislation was passed in 2008 to ban culling.

In 2011 the Romanian parliament voted to reintroduce stray dog culling, despite mounting pressure from other European Union Member States. The law was passed, but declared unconstitutional in January 2012. In 2013, the Constitutional Court authorised the mass killing of Romania's stray dogs. However, it is reported that some Romanian mayors have decided against mass dog culls in their cities.

The existing legislation contains the basic mandates of the OIE's standards, including legislation and policy on stray animal control, although this is mostly through incorporation of European Union legislative requirements.

**Russia:** The general anti-cruelty provisions in the Penal Code apply to companion animals. Reports of inhumane culling by both citizens and government officials appear on several media sources every year. Dog hunters are reported to operate in Moscow, who organise mass culls of animals, including by the use of poison.

The OIE signed an agreement with Russia to open a new OIE representation office in Moscow. The Ministry of Agriculture website states that the OIE's guidelines are permanently used by the Veterinary Department for the development of various animal disease control procedures.

**Spain:** The Penal Code provides that those who cruelly mistreat pets and unjustifiably cause death or injuries causing serious physical impairment will be punished. Laws prohibit the use of pet animals in fights, and the use of stray dogs or cats in experiments. The law permits the hunting of domestic animals which have "lost the condition of being domesticated". In addition to the above, autonomous communities have particular provisions for the control of stray dog populations within their legal systems. Many areas in Spain have issues related to stray dog populations. The Ministry of Agriculture recognises that the OIE provides standards for managing such situations but they are not included in national Spanish legislation or policy. Spain is a member of the OIE with a Spanish representative also sitting on the Scientific Advisory Board for OIE Scientific and Technical Reviews. In addition, Spain has held the Vice-presidency of the OIE for Europe since 2012 and participates very actively in the development of its functions. Furthermore, the focal point on animal welfare has voluntarily become a member of the European Animal Welfare Platform.

**Sweden:** There is reasonably extensive protection for dogs, including guidance on keeping them. The legislation is effective in making the welfare of companion animals a mainstream concern of society.

Within the Board of Agriculture there is an Animal Welfare Council, composed of relevant stakeholders including from NGOs, which meets four times a year. The Board is required to assist the counties in developing key performance indicators for animal welfare activities, and to report to the government with statistics. The legislation in Sweden contains the basic mandates of the OIE's standards, including stray population control. Sweden participates actively in the work of coordinating the European Union's position in the context of the work of the OIE recommendations on animal welfare. Sweden is part of the working group to develop an ISO standard based on the recommendations of the OIE on animal welfare.

**Switzerland:** The legal provisions relating to companion animals are detailed and wide-reaching in their scope. The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office operates a website specifically aimed at providing companion animal owners with information on health and welfare issues. However, the law does not currently contain provisions on humane companion animal population control. There are extensive requirements for dog keeping, - anyone who wants to keep a dog must provide a certificate of competence regarding their knowledge on keeping and dealing with dogs before they get one, unless they have evidence of owning a dog before. A certificate of competence for keeping the dog under control in everyday situations must also be obtained within a year of acquiring a dog. There is clear responsibility placed on the cantonal authorities: each canton is required to set up a technical office for ensuring that

laws and regulations are enforced, and to draw up supplementary regulations where required for implementation. The areas covered by the OIE's standards are addressed by Swiss legislation, with the exception of dog population control. Stray dogs are reported not to be a problem in the country. The country is a member of the Advisory Committee of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund and of the steering group of the OIE's regional platform on animal welfare in Europe. The law mentions international cooperation between the Federal Council and other countries to train inspectors, carry out inspections and exchange information in the field of animal welfare.

**Turkey:** The law has a general anti-cruelty provision, and it also prohibits selling domestic pets to persons who have not received training in animal care, or to those under 16 years old. The law states that "It is a principle that the owners of cats and dogs being fed and accommodated in communal areas are expected to have them sterilised in order to prevent uncontrolled reproduction. Furthermore, those who wish to breed from the said animals must register all young animals born and are responsible for their care and/or distribution", although this appears to be a statement of intention rather than a legal requirement. It is prohibited to kill ownerless animals except where permitted by the Animal Health Police Law. They are required to be taken to animal shelters established or permitted by the local authorities.

Media and NGO reports persist that suggest that the legal provisions have not been implemented and enforced, and that there are serious welfare concerns associated in particular with stray and roaming dogs, such as dogs being poisoned and dogs being neutered by unqualified personnel and then returned to locations different from where they were caught. In addition, the government has made recent attempts to replace these provisions with approaches that would have significant adverse impacts on the welfare of dogs and cats in the country, proposing that stray or roaming dogs and cats should be caught and placed permanently in shelters or enclosed "natural parks". The Ministry of the Environment and Forestry is given powers in various parts of the Animal Protection Law to produce the secondary legislation needed to support the provisions within that law. However The Ministry of the Environment and Forestry, which had powers to produce secondary legislation for animal welfare, no longer appears to exist; it seems to have been replaced by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, whose remit does not include animal protection. Legislation referring to the control of stray dog populations is largely absent and the detailed secondary legislation necessary to implement the current legislation has also not been found.

**Ukraine:** The law requires an owner or keeper to ensure the animal is kept in a way that corresponds to its biological, species and individual needs. It covers the issue of stray animals providing for the establishment of shelters, for humane catching methods and for isolation, quarantine, and disposal of captured strays. Organs of the local government are empowered to set up communal services or enterprises to capture stray dogs, cats and other domestic animals. In September 2013 the Parliament approved a law to ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals. Despite action by the national government and by some city authorities, reports of the cruel killing and poisoning of stray animals persist.

A Regional OIE Commission has now been established, and the Ukraine is a member of the OIE Regional platform on animal welfare for Europe.

**UK:** There are general anti-cruelty provisions in the law, which also creates a duty of care, requiring that a person who is responsible for an animal takes such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the needs of that animal are met to the extent required by good practice. To tackle the problem of stray dogs and to encourage responsible dog ownership the government in England is introducing compulsory microchipping of dogs from April 2016. Wales is introducing compulsory microchipping from 2015. Legislation in Northern Ireland already requires dog owners to hold licenses and includes compulsory microchipping.

Local authorities are responsible for many aspects of enforcement, for example, collection of stray animals. Concern has been expressed about a lack of funding for local authorities in the face of government spending cuts in a time of austerity.

All eleven OIE standards are covered; some appear in legislation, and others are covered by the Codes of Practice which have quasi-statutory authority.

The UK is actively supporting its common agenda with the OIE within the European Union and internationally. To promote animal welfare globally the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs assisted in providing training in welfare science and legislation to the veterinary services and non-government organisations of ten non-European Union countries

In a recent policy paper outlining its plans to further build the evidence base for animal welfare, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs described animal welfare as a public good but advised there was limited understanding of the value it creates for UK society.

### **Asia and the Pacific**

**Azerbaijan:** The government has signed the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals that came into force in 2008. However, Azerbaijan does not currently have basic animal protection legislation. Reports of inhumane culling of cats and dogs in the capital Baku appeared internationally as the country prepared to host the 2012 Eurovision Song Contest. In an interview in late 2012, the Chief of the Enforcement Department in Baku said that stray dogs would in the future be caught and kept in a designated compound and that it could be possible for the skin of stray dogs to be used in the future. Further reports of culling activity persist from 2013.

**China:** The Inspection Regulation of the Place of Origin for Dogs, Cats and Rabbits (2011) requires that carrying vehicles and cages shall take consideration of animal welfare. The regulation is composed in compliance with Animal Inspection Management Regulations, with the effect of making the operation of the dog and cat meat industry more onerous with inspection procedures. Some branches of local government have made regulations addressing elements of welfare of companion dogs. Draft legislation proposed in 2009 by an expert group has not yet been proposed to the National People's Congress. The General Principles of Animal Welfare Assessment is the first government law or policy document to explicitly address animal welfare as the core content. The General Principles will include issues such as infrastructure, feeding environment and health, but to a lower standard than the detail of the OIE's standards in the OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Code. China has been a member of the OIE since 2007. Achievements have been made in research programs funded by the Ministry of Agriculture as well as progress in dog population control in the big cities. However the existing focus of engagement is on health and disease control rather than animal welfare, and there is no national policy or legislation in place recognising the OIE's standard.

**India:** The general anti-cruelty provisions the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 apply to this category of animals. Stray dogs can be killed in "lethal chambers" by prescribed methods but not by strychnine injection or other unnecessarily cruel manner. Secondary legislation, the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules 2001, sets out rules for local authorities to carry out catching, sterilising and immunising street dogs (whilst pet dogs are the sole responsibility of the owner). The Rules make provision for trap-neuter-release of street dogs. It is noted that the Rules provide that a dog with suspected rabies may not be euthanised but must be kept until its "natural death" (section 10), which can have very serious welfare implications. Rules to govern the pet shop trade have been proposed but it is understood that these have not yet been enacted. The Animal Welfare Board of India works to address the welfare problems of street dogs and to control rabies but reports that it is handicapped by outdated government policies and a lack

of funds. A committee must be set up by each local authority with a standard membership and is responsible for planning and management of dog control programmes in accordance with these rules. Each local authority also has responsibilities to provide funds for immunisation/sterilisation, shelters, vans, a mobile clinic and staff. However financial constraints and a reported unrealistic amount of funding for NGOs, which carry out dog sterilisations present significant barriers to improvement.

Existing regulations cover issues established in the OIE's guiding principles and animal welfare standards including transport of animals, slaughter of animals and stray dog population control. Some content of the OIE's standards has been incorporated into primary and secondary legislation, namely the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 and related secondary legislation. However implementation and enforcement activities appear to face difficulties. The government is involved with participating at the OIE Global Conferences and also with reporting to the OIE on animal disease control and on rabies control efforts.

**Indonesia:** The law requires that measures are taken in the interest of animal welfare (defined as all matters relating to animal physical and mental conditions) in relation to listed activities including husbandry, and that generally animals should be free from pain, fear or pressure when these activities take place. Organised dog fighting is illegal, but dog fighting events remain popular in the country. There also appear to be no comprehensive legal provisions relating to a requirement for humane stray population control throughout the country. The welfare of dogs arouses international concern with respect to inhumane methods of killing stray dogs, such as poisoning, and also the practice of rearing and killing cats and dogs for meat.

It is evident from the country's engagement with the OIE and the March 2014 workshop to discuss a national framework for animal welfare and a national animal welfare advisory committee that the government is focussing effort to improve animal welfare, and the government has established a Sub-Directorate of Zoonoses and Animal Welfare within the Ministry of Agriculture. The final stages of the Improved Animal Welfare Programme were held in January 2013 in Indonesia. Supported by both the Indonesian and Australian governments, the IAWP aims to improve the understanding of OIE's animal welfare standards and promote their implementation in member countries. The country is a member of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania.

**Iran:** it has been reported that the government has discussed introducing legislation to criminalise dog ownership. At national level, there is no legislation or policy to protect companion animals. Information provided to the OIE on the regional representation for Asia and the Pacific on OIE's National Focal Points for Animal Welfare shows that the attendee from Iran represents a veterinary association rather than a government department. Interaction with the OIE seems to be limited to the production of reports on animal health, mostly in relation to disease control. The Iran Veterinary Organisation is participating in the OIE RAWs.

**Japan:** The law has anti-cruelty and duty of care provisions, and also contains some provisions on responsible pet ownership. Prefectural governors may appoint animal welfare promoters who have enthusiasm and knowledge regarding the promotion of the welfare of such animals as dogs and cats in their region. The role of the animal welfare promoter is to deepen the understanding of residents regarding the importance of the welfare and proper care of such animals as dogs and cats, to give advice on spaying and neutering dogs and cats, to provide adoption services or any other necessary assistance on request, and to cooperate with the national and regional government in promoting the welfare and proper care of animals such as dogs and cats. Owners are required to have their dogs and cats neutered if there is a risk that they would breed freely and that it would be difficult to give the offspring and opportunity to receive proper care. Prefectures have to take custody of cats and dogs if requested by their

owners or in those cases in which the owner is not known, but this has apparently been amended in September 2012 to allow government shelters to turn away surrenders and to oblige animal owners to take full responsibility for taking care of their animals until the end of the animals' lives. There are reports of the widespread use of inhumane methods of killing abandoned and stray dogs and cats, despite a prohibition on doing so.

The law describes a "Be Kind to Animals Week", which is established in order to enhance the interest and understanding of citizens in general concerning the welfare and proper care of animals. During this week, the national and local governments should to implement events appropriate for the purpose of the campaign. Activity during this week is reported on the Ministry's website. The government has incorporated some of the OIE's animal welfare standards and principles into legislation, however, relevant legislation does not contain provisions on killing of animals for disease control, or on stray population control. There are several OIE reference laboratories in Japan that conduct research and engage with the OIE on various areas of animal health and disease at ad hoc groups.

**Korea:** The duty of care and anti-cruelty provisions apply to dogs. Article 14 contains measures for stray and abandoned animals. If a Mayor or Governor discovers a stray or abandoned animal he is required to rescue the animal and take measures to protect it. Animals must be kept for at least seven days, with notice given to the public. Animals can then be sold or donated to a zoo, animal lover or NGO. It is widely reported that dogs continue to be farmed for meat and consumed in the country. Reports suggest that over two million dogs are consumed every year and that pet dogs may be stolen and sold into the trade and killed in brutal ways, in contravention of the anti-cruelty provisions of the Animal Protection Act. There appear to be no enforcement mechanisms relating to the duty of care provisions. The Animal Protection Act establishes an Animal Welfare Committee within the Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to provide advice to the Ministry on issues including animal welfare, prevention of cruelty and rescue and the protection of animals. The Act requires the government to formulate and implement a comprehensive plan for the welfare of animals once every five years.

**Malaysia:** The general prevention of cruelty provisions apply to companion animals. The law requires licensing for all dogs over 3 months of age, and mandates collars and badges to be worn as any dog found out of doors without these may be destroyed. Under RAWS, Malaysia has launched a National Animal Welfare Strategic Plan for 2012 to 2020, including expenditure of up to 80 million ringgit in order to improve welfare.

**Myanmar:** Anti-cruelty provisions and prohibition of unnecessary maiming exist in law. The legislation includes some general provisions prohibiting some specified forms of ill treatment of animals, including abandonment and preventing them from access to food and water. Myanmar is participating in the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia Pacific and has made successful efforts with respect to animal health.

**Pakistan:** The anti-cruelty provisions in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1890 apply to dogs. There are no provisions for the control of dog or cat stray population. The government has nominated a representative from the Livestock and Dairy Development Ministry to participate in the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy.

**Philippines:** There are general anti-cruelty and duty of care in the Animal Welfare Act. It permits the killing of animals for the purpose of animal population control. Secondary legislation makes more detailed provisions relating to aspects of companion animal welfare, with specific references to the principles of the Five Freedoms and detailed rules on the registration of facilities including animal control facilities

(such as pounds, shelters and quarantine centres), kennels and pet shops. The Anti-Rabies Act requires dog owners to vaccinate and register their dogs and to provide proper grooming, adequate food and clean shelter. Local governments have enacted Ordinances relating to stray animals and rabies control. The Anti-Rabies Act requires local government units to take action including prohibiting the sale of dogs for meat, prohibiting the use of electrocution for euthanasia, and requiring pet shops to post information regarding rabies and responsible pet ownership.

The OIE has worked with the Philippine government in recent years on disease control and on rabies vaccination in stray dog populations.

**Thailand:** The enactment of the new Animal Anti-Cruelty and Welfare Act has strengthened anti-cruelty provisions and created a duty of care. The Act provides for the establishment of an Animal Anti-Cruelty and Welfare Committee bringing together members of a variety of ministries and departments (including education and religious affairs) and experts in veterinary medicine and animal welfare, and NGOs. The Act has not fully engaged with the OIE's guiding principles on animal welfare and its content still falls short of good international standards. For example, exemptions to the cruelty prohibition under the Act include traditional animal fighting.

In 2010, the OIE and the government of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding establishing the OIE Sub-Regional Representation for South East Asia (SRR-REA) in Bangkok. Thailand is also part of other regional groups, such as MTM Tri State Commission– the Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar subgroup of OIE SRR-SEA, which hold meetings where, among other things, compliance with OIE guidance principles is discussed.

**Vietnam:** the government has produced some legislation with regard to rabies control. In November 2013, the World Society for the Protection of Animals (now World Animal Protection) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government to support its work as ASEAN Lead Country on eradicating rabies from all ASEAN nations by 2020 through Mass Dog Vaccination programmes and other humane strategies. The dog meat trade presents a series of challenges for dog welfare, and it has an impact on the government's implementation of mechanisms against rabies. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Fisheries generally observe the standards on health set out in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code. Despite being a member of RAWS, Vietnam has not yet begun developing its own national animal welfare strategy.

**Australia:** There is no legislation applicable to companion animal welfare at a national level. Each state and territory has animal welfare legislation that covers companion animals, including the general anti-cruelty and duty of care provisions in state and territory animal welfare legislation. There are high rates of companion animal abandonment and euthanasia.

In terms of national policy, the Animal Welfare Strategy 2010-14 established a national intergovernmental committee, the Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from state and territory government responsible for animal welfare and responsible for the delivery of the Strategy. Following the announcement by the government in late 2013 to hand over the coordination and program management for the ongoing delivery of the Strategy to the states and territories, the Australian government stepped back from leading any domestic animal welfare issues. A national intergovernmental task group, the Animal Welfare Task Group, consists of representatives from the Department of Agriculture and each state and territory government department responsible for the administration of animal welfare policy and law. The Task Group leads the development of nationally consistent animal welfare standards and guidelines, revisions from the existing Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals. At an individual state and territory level, in most jurisdictions the OIE's animal welfare standards

are broadly covered in legislation or policy. Standards on population control and animals in research are more prominent.

The Australia Animal Welfare Strategy 2010-2014 supported the development and implementation of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. RAWS was endorsed by the OIE as a global model for other regions. The government funded RAWS development, implementation and Coordination Group activities since 2008, and has advised that this funding will cease in March 2015. The government has confirmed that the Australian Animal Welfare Focal Point will continue to engage in all OIE animal welfare focal point activities.

**New Zealand:** As well as the general provisions under the law that provide for a basic duty of care for all animals and the prohibition of ill treatment, there are some specific provisions relating to companion animals such as debarking and declawing. There are also codes of welfare relating to dogs that provide guidance on animal welfare standards. Although these recommendations are not legally enforceable, they can be used to as evidence of substandard welfare in a prosecution. Parliament has just passed the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill, with more enforcement mechanisms available. It provides for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards, and broadens the range of enforcement tools, including new tools that will enable animal welfare inspectors to prevent animal suffering as well as punish perpetrators.<sup>xxvi</sup> Current New Zealand legislation seems to be on par with the OIE's minimum standards, and it is clear that the OIE's guiding principles have been considered in creating the Animal Welfare Strategy in 2013. The OIE standards are included or in many cases surpassed in New Zealand's various Codes of Welfare.

The government is actively engaged with the OIE; a New Zealand/Australia Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis at the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences has been recognised by the OIE and New Zealand is engaged with the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. New Zealand plays a strong role in OIE activities by membership of and chairing key committees and expert Groups.

The OIE Collaborating Centre helps with New Zealand's research collaboration and to support the OIE's Global Animal Welfare Mandate.

The appointment of the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as an approved organisation helps to add focus and outside resources to enforcement.

## **Americas**

**Argentina:** There are no specifications or regulations on the trade in companion animals and there are no national regulations on stray population control.

Argentina is active in engagement with the OIE and the OIE regional representation for the Americas has been situated in Buenos Aires since 1998. The core of the animal protection system in Argentina is a criminal law. The Ministry of Education participates in the country's Animal Day (29 April). On the Ministry's website information on the animal day has references to some conservation, animal welfare and animal rights organisations and in addition, refers to the Universal Declaration of Animal Rights. Political pressure from organisations with an animal rights perspective has been instrumental in the production of provincial legislation that introduces humane methods of stray dog population control via sterilisation.

**Brazil:** The law has general protection for animals, and the environmental crimes law also provides some basic protection for companion animals in Brazil. Municipalities are responsible for public health issues involving domestic animals, including dangerous animals. Two Brazilian states and many municipalities prohibit the euthanasia of healthy dogs and cats. They are reported to be implementing humane methods of population control through neutering campaigns with promotion of responsible ownership and

adoption. Centres for the Control of Zoonoses in Brazilian cities have responsibility for dealing with animal diseases and are required to control dog and cat populations. This has led to inhumane killing of stray animals in many areas. The government has worked with partners to promote humane population control and handling of stray animals, and since 2005 training has taken place in more than 200 cities.

Training projects carried out by the government with partners have penetrated hundreds of cities in the country and have reached many thousands of professionals. For example, training has taken place on humane population control of stray animals. The responsibilities of the relevant government bodies are mandated in legislation, and audits carried out by the European Union demonstrate government effectiveness with respect to the implementation of laws and measures that have been prioritised.

Some of the OIE standards remain to be implemented, such as national humane stray dog population control. The government is actively engaged with the OIE to improve animal welfare internationally, regionally and nationally. In 2013 Brazil hosted and co-funded the Third OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Bodies. Brazil is a member of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

In 2013 Brazil and the European Union signed an agreement to co-operate on animal welfare by sharing knowledge and expertise.

**Canada:** The Criminal Code makes it an offence to wilfully kill, maim, wound, poison or injure dogs without lawful excuse. Owners of animals must not cause or allow their animal to be subjected to unnecessary suffering and domestic animals must not be given any poisonous drug. All provinces and territories have laws providing some degree of protection to companion animals. The Animals for Research Act permits the use in research of animals from pounds. Pounds are not permitted to destroy healthy dogs and cats unless no research facilities have made requests for animals for research purposes or destruction has been requested by the previous owner or ordered by a veterinarian. The protection given under the Code arises from classification of animals as property and thus animals which are owned (rather than stray) are given priority. SPCAs are relied on by province and territory governments for enforcement but may suffer from budget constraints. There are constitutional restrictions; the government's constitutional remit in relation to legislating on animal welfare issues at a federal level is limited.

The current federal level legislation does not cover the OIE's standards on stray dog population control. There is much disparity across the provinces and territories in terms of content and scope of relevant legislation. Canada has contributed 2 million Canadian dollars to the OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund. The Canadian Government appoints a delegate to the OIE who is responsible for co-ordinating comment on the relevant OIE actions, standards and codes of practice.

**Chile:** The law establishes that education on respect for and protection of animals is to be promoted and states: "Priority will be given to education on responsible ownership of animals in order to control canine and feline populations, promoting the implementation of further preventative measures, such as systematic fertility control of dogs and cats and of interrelated environmental factors and the registry and identification of these domestic animals." In July 2014 President Michelle Bachelet announced in her state-of-the-union speech a national sterilisation programme for stray dogs and a bill on responsible pet ownership envisaging tougher penalties for abuse or abandon of pets, and a planned register of dangerous dogs.

No immediate restrictions or provisions on what constitutes "responsible ownership" are found in law. There is a large population of stray or roaming dogs in the country, for example in Santiago, but the government is focussing on humane methods of population control. A number of the OIE's guiding principles for animal welfare are covered in the legislation, including stray population control. Furthermore, there is specific reference to OIE standards, which in effect means that legislation in the country has a level of equivalence to European regulations.

The government has supported the OIE in introducing and developing animal welfare measures in the country and in the region.

**Colombia:** There are general laws and the Colombian Police Code mentions responsible ownership of dogs, including ownership and care of dangerous dogs and specific bans on dog fighting. There does not appear to be legislation on stray population control. Some responsibilities have been taken on by the Colombian Institute of Agriculture, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture and promotes OIE work in the country.

The government has participated in the OIE's veterinary missions and currently appears as one of the participants in the development of regional work in the collaborating centre in Uruguay. The Colombian Institute of Agriculture promotes the OIE's standards and currently holds representation before the organisation for regional issues.

**Mexico:** At national level, the law provides that the owners or keepers of domestic animals must provide adequate quantity and quality of food and water, veterinarian supervision and immediate attention in case of illness or injury. The welfare of companion animals is also protected in some state animal protection legislation.

The majority of the regional legislation is the responsibility of state ministers and secretariats, who may defer responsibility of enforcement to animal welfare groups. As the Mexican Federal States and the Federal District are autonomous, there is a lack of consistency in animal welfare legislation and consequently the level to which the OIE standards and guiding principles have been incorporated. Mexico does participate in engagement with the OIE via its Director General of Animal Health and Mexico is a member of the OIE's Regional Commission for the Americas.

**Peru:** Owners and keepers of animals are obliged not to cause or allow them to be caused unnecessary suffering. The law also requires that owners and keepers ensure that food and health are adequate and prohibits abandonment. It states that municipal authorities will support the establishment of shelters for animals that are stranded, lost, sick or in custody, where they will be given attention and safety. The law prohibits the organisation of dog fights and requires licensing of dogs.

There is currently no legislation restricting inhumane methods of controlling stray populations.

Peru is also engaged with the OIE's Regional Commission for the Americas. The government of Peru has proactively engaged with the OIE to receive support and guidance on disease control and the implementation of animal welfare standards.

**Uruguay:** The law says that companion animals should receive attention, protection, food and sanitary care from their owners or keepers. There is a general prohibition on culling, with some exceptions for cases in which there is a sanitary emergency or an endemic situation needs to be avoided (although there are no guidelines to define or understand these scenarios). The responsible ownership guidelines make reference to OIE regulations and World Society for the Protection of Animals (now World Animal Protection) "guidelines", but there is no specific indication of the provisions referred to. The law establishes a National Registry of Companion Animals, and makes provisions regarding the operation of shelters, including for their inspection by the government. There are rules regarding stray animals including provision for neutering caught strays. It appears that healthy stray animals may not be killed unless they are aggressive and cannot be re-socialised.

Companion animals are a main subject of animal protection legislation in Uruguay. Through the National Honorary Commission of Animal Welfare, the country has introduced a system of whistle blowing for abuse to animals. The law contains provisions for budgeting animal welfare protection, and establishes that the Zoonotic Disease Commission should employ some of the funds received for work on dogs to

provide money to the National Honorary Commission of Animal Welfare, so that campaigns on stray population control can be undertaken. Allocation of direct responsibility within government ministries includes work specifically aimed at having direct representation at animal welfare events, interaction with the OIE's Collaboration Centre on Animal Welfare and promoting activities to encourage the inclusion of animal welfare in discussions and decision-making processes. The government has developed legislation covering most of the OIE's animal welfare standards, but further specificity is needed to reach the overall level reached by the OIE. Uruguay has a longstanding tradition of working with the OIE and hosts, alongside Chile, the Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare. This is the only centre of its kind in South America.

**USA:** The Animal Welfare Act and its regulations apply to some issues concerning the commercial use of companion animals. The provisions of the Act do not extend to private pet owners; there is no federal law relating to the treatment of pets by their owners or others. Breeders, dealers and exhibitors are covered by the Act but this does not extend to small retail breeders and pet shops selling domestic pet animals to the public. In 2013 the scope of the Act was extended to include breeders selling pets online. The Animal Welfare Act requires government bodies, state or municipal pounds or shelters, private shelters, and federal research facilities to hold dogs or not less than five days to enable owners to reclaim their lost pets or to allow shelters an opportunity to adopt out individual animals before selling a dog or cat to a dealer. There is no federal law relating to stray control and no federal programmes to promote responsible pet ownership. The Dog and Cat Protection Act of 2000 makes it unlawful to import into, or export from, the United States any dog or cat fur product, or to engage in interstate commerce in any dog or cat fur product. At the state level, anti-cruelty provisions usually provide for higher penalties for cruelty and neglect of companion animals. There is significant variation between states in the extent of protection of the welfare of companion animals. The Office of Inspector General's audit of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service also reveals that the way in which the Act is enforced is a barrier to improving animal welfare.

The 2010 to 2015 Strategic Plan produced by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service includes an objective to protect and promote animal welfare. In 2010 the Animal and Plant Health Information Service established a Center for Animal Welfare to give guidance and best practice advice on animal welfare issues to stakeholders and industry partners. Liability for harm to animals or harm caused by animals and anti-cruelty laws have in general been the prerogative of the individual states and have not been addressed by the federal government except in circumstances or issues considered to be of national importance, for example, with respect to animal fighting and issues involving multi-states such as animal transport.

A 2011 Animal and Plant Health Information Service Veterinary Services Factsheet "Collaborating with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)" advises that the United States is required to base its policies on the international standards set by the OIE as part of World Trade Organisation obligations. There is a lack of federal legislation and oversight on stray dog population control, although this is addressed at state level.

The Veterinary Services program of the Animal and Plant Health Information Service is actively engaged in collaborating with the OIE on issues concerning animal health. Veterinary Services advises that their latest partner, the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, will have a focus of helping veterinary professionals in OIE countries to improve the technical skills needed to respond to animal health problems utilising expertise in online learning, and that the Center will be assisting OIE member states in key areas including advancing veterinary capacity and by providing leadership development opportunities.

The Department of Agriculture's National Agriculture Library maintains an "Animal Welfare Information Center," which tracks legal and policymaking developments.

Organisations with which the Service holds consultations include the OIE Regions of the America's Committee on Veterinary Medicines.

**Venezuela:** The law focuses on protection of companion animals, in particular dogs. In addition to the general anti-cruelty provisions, a number of articles in the law address specific problems or situations that aim to prevent particular forms of abuse towards companion animals (for instance, a ban on dog fighting). The law establishes some responsibilities on owners and keepers of companion animals: food, care and health must be considered. The legislation includes a number of provisions on euthanasia (described as “painless slaughtering” or “painless death”) of domestic animals as a mechanism for population control resulting from what the law describes as “critical situations” where health and goods are deemed to be threatened by animals.

The system provides for municipal authorities (headed by the Mayor of each municipality or city) to implement the law, thus, decentralising power from the executive branch into the regions. In addition, it creates a series of controls and tasks in these authorities for which there is no evidence of strategic planning in terms of its enactment and implementation. The government participates in the regional animal welfare strategy for the Americas.

### **Middle East**

Note: Iran is covered under the OIE Asia and Pacific region, and Turkey is covered under the OIE Europe region. None of the other countries mentioned above are covered in the Animal Protection Index.

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Accessed 30 May 2015

## Section 5: Recommendations for APOs

We have provided some suggestions at different levels that may help Animal Protection Organisations (APOs) to use the OIE standard in advocacy in favour of humane stray dog population control, and as a potential vehicle for obtaining additional resources for programmes in this area.

The annex provides a list of potential sources of support and guidance.

### Recommendations

#### ***At the global level:***

- A comprehensive and publically available database should be set up to measure the current situation in different countries, and chart progress towards meeting OIE standards.
- Start or join advocacy campaigns that ask for OIE countries to implement the standard.
- Work with country delegates and focal points; identify capacity building needs and request training and workshops to improve knowledge and skills in target countries.
- Identify potential resources (technical expertise/capacity building, as well as financial) from international sources for the implementation of stray dog population control; and build partnerships to access these resources.

#### ***At the regional level:***

- Campaign with like-minded organisations from neighbouring countries to encourage drafting of a RAWS if one does not exist yet in the region; and to call for the inclusion of stray dog population control in the RAWS.
- Research progress on existing RAWS and provide input on action plans where consultation is possible.
- Lobby Regional Economic Community/ies to provide funding for this work, or (if not readily available) to secure this from international sources.
- Lobby Regional Economic Community/ies to include stray dog population control in their remit, and to adopt measures to implement the OIE's stray dog population standard across the region.
- Ask for the expansion of the OIE European plan and tools such as the OIE self-assessment and monitoring tool and roadmap<sup>xxvii</sup> to other regions, to increase knowledge of the current stray dog population situation in different parts of the world.
- Identify and build relationships with other regional capacity building networks, e.g. the African Small Companion Animal Network from WSAVA<sup>xxviii</sup> or the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (which has regional sections)<sup>xxix</sup>.

#### ***At the national level:***

- Lobby your government to implement the OIE standard as a baseline (in cases where current practice falls below this), and to provide local governments with resources and support to implement measures that meet the standard, or (if not readily available) to secure this from international sources.
- Encourage your government to ask for Performance of Veterinary Services evaluations<sup>xxx</sup> by the OIE and to make the reports publicly available.
- Incorporate elements of the OIE standard that correspond with your organisation's work into funding proposals to show funders how your work meets international recommendations.

## **Annex: Stakeholders - potential resources**

### **NGOs:**

International Companion Animal Management Coalition ([ICAM](#))

- Coalition of international NGOs
- Provides practical tools and resources for humane companion animal management
- Promotes sharing of ideas and data to improve understanding

International APOS implementing stray dog population management programmes may provide resources and support. These include:

- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Humane Society International
- World Animal Protection
- RSPCA
- Dogs Trust
- Four Paws

**CAROdog** – provides online resources that support the development of a European overall strategy on responsible ownership of dogs. CAROdog also organises workshops and conferences, and coordinates a European working group on Identification and Registration of companion animals.<sup>xxxi</sup>

NGOs dealing in dog-related zoonoses, such as:

- Global Alliance for Rabies Control, which provides educational resources and the Canine Rabies Blueprint, online SOPs for implementing rabies control programmes.

There are potential opportunities to partner on stray dog population control programmes with public health organisations.

### **Intergovernmental agencies**

#### ***World Health Organisation (WHO)***

- The WHO assists countries in the formulation of health policies and strategies.
- It is working towards greater harmonisation of donor support (technical and financial), aligned to national sector-wide plans.
- It works on rabies control and elimination, in combination with the expertise of FAO, OIE and WHO as well as other major stakeholders including the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC). It has just completed pilot projects on rabies control in Tanzania and KZN, South Africa.<sup>xxxii</sup>

#### ***FAO***

- The FAO provides support and technical assistance on projects connected to food security, including livestock, fisheries and animal health projects.
- It has organized multi-stakeholder workshops for rabies control in Asia and Africa as well as implementing One Health community-based projects in Uganda and Sierra Leone. Different stakeholders have been brought together, including municipalities and animal welfare organizations to discuss DPM as part of rabies control programmes<sup>xxxiii</sup>
- It has developed, with GARC, a Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination tool to help countries measure progress towards rabies elimination

### **UNDP**

The UNDP is currently working in Bosnia with IFAW on a stray dog population management project<sup>xxxiv</sup>. The partnership originated as roaming dogs were identified as a human security issue. There may be other opportunities to set up humane stray dog population management programmes with development agencies on issues such as security and health.

### **European Union (EU)**

- The EU itself has a large, practical, institutional experience of animal welfare.
- EU support includes: agriculture, food security, biodiversity, environment (including environmental governance), capacity building and institutional development.
- The EU is supporting the development of animal welfare work across Europe, under the OIE's Regional Platform for Animal Welfare.
- The EU could use its experience and expertise in animal welfare to support programmes to implement RAWs in other regions including, in particular, capacity building and technical assistance in the development of animal welfare policies, laws, and structures/systems/enforcement.

### **USAID**

USAID programmes include health, food security and agriculture, education, the environment and climate change, and democratic societies and institutions.

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*With grateful thanks to Deepashree Balaram, BVSc&AH, MBA, for valuable research assistance.*