

Proposal

## ***DRAFT NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CONSULTATION***

The control of the dog population in  
Montenegro

*Podgorica, November 2019.*

### **Introduction**

The National Strategy for the Control of Dog Population in Montenegro (hereinafter: the Strategy) refers to abandoned dogs and proprietary dogs that are not under the control of humans and as such may pose a problem in terms of the health and well-being of dogs and, consequently, public health. The Law on the Protection of Animal Welfare (Official Gazette of Montenegro 14/08 and 47/15) defines the obligations and responsibilities of natural and legal persons for the protection of animal health and welfare as an umbrella regulation governing the field of animal welfare. and working on the control of animal health and welfare also affects the control of human health. The population of dogs can directly affect the occurrence of zoonoses, so it is extremely important to control dogs unattended, especially by implementing control measures that affect the source of dogs and population control measures that should be conducted in a humane and sustainable manner.

The Food, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs Directorate (hereinafter referred to as the Food Safety Directorate) prepares expert bases for the adoption of relevant regulations in the field of veterinary activity, as well as a program of mandatory animal health measures, which places particular emphasis

on particularly dangerous infectious diseases and zoonoses. The Food Safety Administration has the competence to coordinate and control the implementation of mandatory health care measures, and other competent authorities are involved in this activity, such as the Specialized Veterinary Laboratory, the Veterinary Chamber of Montenegro and registered veterinary dispensaries performing public animal health tasks based on the authority of the Directorate for the safety of food, in accordance with the Law on Veterinary (Official Gazette of Montenegro 30/2012, 48/2015, 57/2015, 52/2016 and 43/2018), the Law on Protection of Animal Welfare and the Law on Identification and Registration of Animals.

In 2009, the OIE1 Terrestrial Animal Health Code harmonized the guidelines for the control of stray dog populations, Chapter 7.7, and Montenegro as a member of the OIE has the opportunity to apply this code through the national legal framework and national strategy.

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OIE Chapter 7.7 for the control of dog populations lists the following measures:

- Education and legal framework that encourages responsible ownership;
- Establishment of a dog identification and registration system;
- Control of breeding dogs for sale;
- Control of unscheduled dog reproduction;
- Establishment of human trapping services and establishment of shelters for abandoned animals in accordance with the standards laid down by the competent authority;
- Municipal waste control;
- Prescribing measures on the movement and keeping of dogs and obligations of owners;
- Dog Movement Control (International);
- Euthanasia.

Guidelines and recommendations for the control of stray dog populations are also a subject of interest from many international and professional animal welfare and welfare organizations such as FAO, ICAM, etc. ([www.icam-coalition.org](http://www.icam-coalition.org), [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org), [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)) - recommendations are available on the websites of these organizations. The OIE guidelines are based on good practice and many countries in Europe have successfully addressed the problem by establishing a comprehensive dog population control framework that includes the following important components: **identification and registration, control**

**of breeding and sale of dogs, control of breeding and promotion of responsible ownership and effective penal policy.**

#### THE BASIS FOR MAKING A NATIONAL STRATEGY

Under the OIE Platform for Animal Welfare for Europe, the Balkan countries have agreed to reach full compliance with Chapter 7.7 by 2025. The RES has therefore established a regional stray dog map for 11 Balkan countries to support and monitor progress towards the vision.

Three OIE assessments made in 2015 and 2018 in 11 countries showed low compliance with Chapter 7.7. The assessment highlighted a number of shortcomings such as:

**Lack of systematic monitoring of the number and prevalence of dogs and trends ownership; Lack of education and awareness of dog owners that can affect the control of dog populations and responsible behavior of owners; Lack of professional training for veterinary inspectors, employees of shelters, utility companies and non-governmental organizations; Poor housing conditions for animals in shelters for abandoned animals (pets) in registered and unregistered shelters; The need to establish a system for identifying and registering pets - that is, establishing a central database; Lack of resources and technical capacity to develop and implement provisions for the control of abandoned dogs; Poor public perception of abandoned dogs and lack of effective participation of stakeholders; large number of dog bites and compensation fees paid to citizens, as well as high treatment costs for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP); Need for greater coordination and communication of stakeholders (veterinary professionals, private and public sector, national and local authorities, NGOs, citizens).**

#### **BASIC Principles**

This document builds on the existing legal framework and the OIE standards defined in Chapter 7.7 for controlling the population of abandoned dogs.

The basic principles of the strategy are as follows:

The national strategy is based on fundamental principles based on the general principles of animal welfare (which includes animal health and welfare) that are developed on the basis of scientific research, including disease prevention, veterinary health care.

Promoting responsible ownership can have one of the most significant contributions to reducing the number of abandoned dogs and reducing the incidence of bites and zoonoses. Behavior and responsible dog ownership is a fundamental component of a control program that should contribute to lasting and sustainable results.

Dog ecology is closely linked to human behavior and any intervention to be successful must be accompanied by a change in the behavior of humans, above all dog owners and their awareness of responsibility as an animal keeper.

The need for control of dog populations is continuous, with interventions evolving over time and adapting to new conditions. This requires the support of an integrated and sustainable dog control system on a partnership basis within the Government, relevant institutions, veterinary organizations and the civil sector.

This document is in line with the existing legal framework of Montenegro and with the OIE 7.7 Chapter for the control of stray dog populations but does not limit the further development of legislation that would further improve and strengthen legal measures in this field.

The national dog population control strategy should be implemented at the local level through programs tailored to the specific environment in which it is implemented, and in the next phase it is necessary to develop the necessary professional and technical capacity and to ensure a high level of public support for the proposed strategy in order to successfully implemented the strategy at the local level.

Finally, specific indicators of dog population control must be incorporated into the design of the intervention, so monitoring and evaluation is part of the intervention to evaluate the effectiveness of local measures and tailor the program to local needs.

## TERMS

Some terms have the following meaning:

A dog population control program is a program that aims to control and reduce the population of dogs to a certain level and groups of dogs that have been identified as a source of unattended street dogs and owner dogs.

The **Abandoned Pet Shelter** is a space with facilities that temporarily house found animals for further care and possible domestication.

Animal owner / keeper is a legal or natural person who is responsible or in charge of animals, permanently or temporarily.

An owner dog is a dog owned and controlled by the person responsible for it.

A lost animal is an animal lost by its holder beyond its will.

An abandoned animal is an animal that has no home or is out of it, deprived of the care and care of the keeper, which he deliberately abandoned.

A street dog is an unidentified dog that has been on the public surface for a long period of time and is cared for by individuals or a group of citizens lost, abandoned or any dog not under the constant control of the owner or prevented by the owner from

wandering: (i) a dog that has an owner but still freely wanders and is not under constant control or restriction; (ii) a dog that wanders freely and has no owner; (iii) a free-roaming dog, taken care of by individuals or a group of citizens.

Euthanasia is a killing procedure that is performed by the means and methods designated for this purpose and in a prescribed manner so as to cause the animals the least possible pain, suffering and fear.

CNR catch neuter release is one of the possible measures of control of the dog population by which the street dogs return to the center from which they were taken after sterilization and veterinary treatment.

## LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Montenegro, in its path of European integration, is undergoing a demanding phase of harmonization of regulations with the *acquis*, improving the level of education and expertise and adopting and implementing laws and regulations in these fields and their implementation using good comparative practices of EU Member States.

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Food, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs Directorate plays a major role in the adoption of relevant food, veterinary and phytosanitary regulations. In the field of veterinary policy, the focus of action was placed on preventive measures and programs of mandatory animal health measures with a special aspect on particularly dangerous infectious diseases and zoonoses (especially rabies) and coordination and control of their implementation, which included other competent authorities as follows: Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary Chamber of Montenegro and registered veterinary dispensaries performing activities in the field of veterinary activity prescribed by the Laws and regulations that regulate this field, as follows:

The Law on Veterinary Medicine (Official Gazette of Montenegro 30/12, 48/15 and 52/16) regulates the conditions and manner of performing veterinary activity, animal health protection, measures of veterinary public health, veterinary environmental protection, and other issues of importance for the pursuit of a veterinary activity whose organization and implementation of animal health protection and the implementation of veterinary public health measures are of interest to Montenegro.

Law on the Protection of Animal Welfare (Official Gazette of Montenegro 14/08 and 47/15 ) regulate the rights, obligations and responsibilities of legal and natural persons for the protection of the welfare of animals bred or kept for production from unnecessary pain, suffering or injury, protection at the time of killing, slaughtering and transport, performing animal operations and carrying out experiments, and other animal welfare issues.

The Law on Identification and Registration of Animals (Official Gazette of Montenegro 48/07, 73/10 and 48/15) regulates the manner of identification and registration of animals and farms.

The Rulebook on the Method of Identifying Dogs and Cats ("si CG" No. 62/18) prescribes the method of identifying dogs and cats.

The Ordinance on the manner of keeping a register and issuing a pet passport (Official Gazette of Montenegro 53/15 and 28/17) prescribes the manner of keeping a pet register and the manner of issuing a pet passport.

The Ordinance on the conditions for the non-commercial movement of pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 42/16) lays down more detailed conditions for the non-commercial movement of pets.

Gazette of Montenegro ", No. 53/11) prescribes a program of mandatory animal health measures to be adopted pursuant to Article 47, paragraph 3 of the Veterinary Law and provides for rabies vaccination control measures for dogs and cats against rabies carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions Dogs and cats over three months of age are vaccinated once a year with an inactivated rabies vaccine, with revaccination, as directed by the vaccine manufacturer The administration provides the vaccine for the purposes of vaccination for dogs and cats at registered shelters for abandoned animals (pets).

Law on measures to prevent the occurrence of Echinococcus multilocularis ("Official Gazette of Montenegro" 22/16) p measures for preventing the occurrence of Echinococcus multilocularis in dogs are being drafted.

The Ordinance on the method of keeping dangerous dogs ("SI Gazette CG" No.31 / 17) establishes the conditions and manner of keeping dangerous dogs.

The Ordinance on the Closer Requirements to be fulfilled by Dog Training Facilities ("si CG" No. 30/16) prescribes the closer conditions to be fulfilled by training facilities for dogs in terms of equipment and protection of animal welfare and the manner of keeping a register of facilities for dog training.

The Ordinance on the Closer Requirements to be Met by Kennels ("SI Gazette of Montenegro" No.21 / 15) prescribes the more detailed conditions which the kennels must meet in respect of the facility, equipment and conditions necessary for the protection of animal welfare and the method of keeping a register of kennels.

Ordinance on conditions to be fulfilled by boarding houses and shelters for abandoned animals ("Si List CG" No. 28/15) prescribe closer veterinary and sanitary conditions to be fulfilled by facilities for temporary accommodation of abandoned pets in boarding houses and shelters, method of training persons for the care of animals, the manner of keeping a register of boarding houses and shelters, and the manner of keeping records of the animals found and their care or disposal.

Also, the Law on Protection of Animal Welfare in Article 27 paragraph 7 and Article 28 states that the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of treating abandoned and lost animals (pets), the manner of care and control of their reproduction are prescribed by the competent authority of local self-government, and that if no shelter for abandoned animals (pets) has been established at the level of one or more local governments, the obligation to establish and organize the work is financed by one or more local self-government units in accordance with their needs.

Pursuant to these provisions of the law, decisions on the manner of keeping pets for the following local governments were enforced at the level of local governments:

Decision on pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 2/19) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of treating abandoned and lost animals (pets), the manner of care and control of their reproduction in the territory of the municipality of Savnik.

Decision on Establishment of Shelter for Accommodation and Protection of Abandoned and Lost Dogs and Conditions for Their Care (Si List CG 14/19) laying down the conditions for establishing shelter for accommodation and protection of abandoned and lost dogs from the territory of Mojkovac Municipality.

Decision on the conditions and manner of keeping pets, how to treat abandoned and lost pets and how to manage and control their breeding (Si List CG 19/19), which prescribe the conditions and manner of keeping pets, how to treat abandoned pets, a way to manage and control their reproduction and collection in the territory of the municipality of Rozaje.

Decision on the Conditions and Manner of Keeping Pets and the Manner of Treating Abandoned and Lost Pets ("Si List CG" No. 37/18) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, how to treat abandoned and lost animals (pets) ), a method of managing and controlling their reproduction in the territory of the Municipality of Petnjica.

Decision on the Conditions and Manner of Keeping Pets and the Manner of Treating Abandoned and Lost Animals ("Si List CG" No. 38/18) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of treating abandoned and lost animals (pets) , a method of managing and controlling their reproduction in the territory of Gusinje Municipality.

Decision on keeping pets in the territory of the Capital of Cetinje (Si List CG 37/10 and 28/17) prescribing the manner of treating abandoned and lost pets, as well as the method of managing and controlling their reproduction in the territory of the capital of Cetinje.

Decision on Pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 2/17) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of treating abandoned and lost animals (pets), the manner of care and control of their reproduction in the territory of the Municipality of Kolašin

Decision on the conditions and manner of keeping pets and how to treat abandoned and lost pets (Si List CG 20/15 and 27/16) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, how to treat abandoned and lost pets animals (pets), the method of care and the method of controlling their reproduction in the territory of the Municipality of Herceg Novi.

Decision on the conditions and manner of keeping pets and how to treat abandoned and lost pets (Si List CG 27/10, 27/15 and 34/16) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of treatment with abandoned and lost animals (pets), method of care and control of their breeding in the territory of the Capital - Podgorica.

Decision on the Conditions and Manner of Keeping Pets and the Manner of Treating Abandoned and Lost Animals ("SI Gazette of Montenegro" No. 33/10, 34/14 and 28/16) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of treating pets abandoned and lost animals (pets), the method of care and control of their reproduction in the territory of the Municipality of Tivat.

Decision on the Conditions and Manner of Keeping Pets and the Manner of Treating Abandoned and Lost Pets ("Si List CG" 22/11 and 3/16) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, how to treat abandoned and lost animals ( pets), the method of care and control of their reproduction in the territory of Pljevlja municipality.

Decision on the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of handling abandoned and lost animals (pets) and the method of care and control of their reproduction ("Official Gazette of Montenegro" 22/14 and 18/15), which prescribe the conditions and manner of keeping pets , the way of treating abandoned and lost animals (pets), the way of managing and controlling their reproduction in the territory of the Zabljak Municipality.

Decision on the conditions and manner of keeping pets, how to treat abandoned and lost pets and how to manage and control their reproduction ("SI List CG" 29 / 14i 25/15), which prescribe the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner treatment of abandoned pets, method of care and control of their reproduction and collection in the urban area of Andrijevica municipality.

Decision on Establishing Shelters for the Accommodation and Protection of Abandoned and Lost Dogs and Other Animals ("SI Gazette of Montenegro" 2/15) laying down the conditions for establishing shelters for the accommodation and protection of abandoned dogs and lost animals from the territory of the Municipality of Plav and interested local self-governments .

Decision on the establishment of shelters for housing and protection of abandoned and lost dogs and other animals ("Si List CG" 14/15) laying down the conditions for establishing shelters for housing and protecting abandoned dogs and lost animals from the territory of the Municipality of Rozaje.

Decision to Establish Shelters for the Accommodation and Protection of Abandoned and Lost Dogs i



other animals (Official Gazette of Montenegro 28/14) prescribing the decision to establish shelters for housing and protecting abandoned dogs and lost animals from the territory of the Municipality of Berane.

Decision on pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 4/13) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of handling abandoned and lost animals (pets), the manner of care and control of their reproduction in the territory of the Municipality of Ulcinj.

Decision on the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of treating abandoned and lost animals (pets) and the method of care and control of their reproduction (Official Gazette of Montenegro 32/13) prescribing the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner treatment of abandoned and lost animals (pets), method of care and control of their reproduction in the territory of Bijelo Polje Municipality.

Decision on pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 2/11 and 25/11) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the manner of handling abandoned and lost animals (pets), the manner of disposal and control of their breeding in the territory Municipalities of Bar.

Decision on the Conditions and Manner of Keeping Pets and Treating Abandoned and Lost Pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 17/10) laying down the conditions and manner of keeping pets, collecting, housing, how to treat abandoned and lost pets , the method of management and control of their reproduction in the territory of the Municipality of Nikšić.

Decision on the Establishment of a Joint Shelter for the Accommodation and Protection of Abandoned and Lost Dogs in the Kotor Municipality and the Municipality of Tivat ("Official Gazette of Montenegro" 4/10) On the Establishment of a Common Shelter for the Accommodation and Protection of Abandoned and Lost Dogs in the Kotor Municipality and the Municipality Tivat in the area of Kotor Municipality, item 967 KO Kavac.

Decision on the establishment of shelters for the protection of abandoned and lost dogs (Official Gazette of Montenegro 30/09) on the establishment of shelters for the accommodation and protection of abandoned and lost dogs from the territory of Herceg Novi Municipality.

In the second half of 2019, on September 28, 2019, a system of identification and registration of dogs was established, ie upgrading of the electronic database for identification and registration of pets (dogs) for which funds were provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development through MIDAS (IPARD LIKE II) project. It should also be noted that the Compulsory Animal Health Measures Program for 2019 plans to make a significant contribution to the identification and registration activities of dogs as well as rabies vaccination so that identification of the dog owner, information on the dog's health status and thus can be determined at any time increase the responsible attitude of the holders, because it is the primary responsibility for the animal that the owner has. The

identification and registration of dogs will be carried out by all registered veterinary clinics in Montenegro. In accordance with the Program of mandatory animal health measures, identification and registration of dogs, as well as rabies vaccination, will be financed this year from the budget of Montenegro, that is, from the funds provided in the budget for the program of mandatory animal health measures of the Food Safety Authority, with the participation of the owner. in the amount of € 2.00 per dog.

The Veterinary Act, the Animal Identification and Registration Act and the Animal Welfare Act generally define the competences of the Food, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Administration and other state institutions dealing with this issue, as well as the obligations of individuals - holders or owners of animals.

### RESPONSIBILITIES / AUTHORIZATION

The following institutions have responsibilities and competencies in the implementation of the population control strategy for dogs:

#### **Food, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Affairs Directorate**

The Authority's responsibilities are reflected in the responsibility for adopting and monitoring the implementation of animal health and welfare legislation, including the identification and registration of pets (dogs), rabies control and parasitic diseases (e.g. *Echinococcus* spp.). The responsibility of other state institutions depends on the risk being managed and the purpose / nature of the measures used to control the dog population.

An important role in controlling the stray dog population is yet to be done by the UBHVFP, which is responsible for the implementation of veterinary, animal identification, registration and animal welfare laws, in coordination with other relevant government agencies and institutions. Specific activities to which the UBHVFP could make a significant contribution:

- Provide legal basis for control of stray dog (and rabies) populations in accordance with RES standards;
- Provide technical advice with specialized expertise in public health, animal welfare and animal health to local government bodies to effectively devise, implement and monitor a dog population control plan in in line with RES standards;
- Monitor and support local dog population control programs to ensure sustainability and effectiveness of local efforts;
- Monitor the operational implementation of local dog population programs for the sake of claritystate-of-the-art ("2025 controls") images;
- Provide necessary support to strengthen capacity (financial, human and technical) to ensure implementation at local level;
- Establish and maintain an up-to-date system in which all are relevant institutions networked and linked through the formation of working groups at local level that periodically report to the competent institution on the results and the situation on the ground.

### **Animal Protection Council**

In accordance with Articles 46 and 47 of the Law on Animal Welfare, the Government Decision on the Establishment of the Council for the Protection of Animals (Official Gazette of Montenegro 40/18) was established, with the role of:

monitor the development of scientific and technical knowledge in the field of animal protection and propose ways of improving animal protection in Montenegro;  
gives expert opinion on ethics and animal welfare in the use of animals for experiments;  
provides expert and scientific support for the advancement of animal welfare;  
initiates the adoption or amendment of regulations for the protection of animal welfare;  
submit a report on the condition and protection of animals during the execution of experiments and a report on its work to the Government of Montenegro (hereinafter: the Government), at least once a year;  
cooperates with competent state bodies, administrative bodies and international institutions in the field of exchange of scientific and professional information;  
adopts its Rules of Procedure; performs other tasks in accordance with the law and the Rules of Procedure and the Constitution.

### **Other state institutions**

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Law on Game and Hunting (Official Gazette of Montenegro 52/08 I 48/15) regulating game management and hunting in Montenegro.

Ministry of Health - Law on the Protection of the Population from Infectious Diseases (Official Gazette of Montenegro 12/18), which prescribes the protection of the population against infectious diseases in Montenegro, measures for their prevention, control and eradication, implementation of epidemiological surveillance, the competent entities for their implementation, the manner of providing the means for their implementation, the supervision of the implementation of this Law, as well as other issues of importance for the protection of the population against infectious diseases.

Ministry of Justice - Criminal Code of Montenegro ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro", No. 70/2003, 13/2004, 47/2006 and "Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 40/2008, 25/2010, 32/2011, 64 / 2011 - Second Law, 40/2013, 56/2013, 14/2015 42/2015 58/2015 - Second Law, 44/2017 and 49/2018 "Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 12/18) prescribing The protection of man and other basic social values is the basis and boundary for determining criminal offenses, prescribing criminal sanctions and applying them, to the extent necessary to combat such offenses.

Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism - in the part of measures related to ecology and control of municipal waste.

### **Local governments**

The competences of local self-governments are prescribed by the Law on Protection of Animal Welfare in the part of making and implementing decisions at the municipal level, which prescribe the conditions and manner of keeping pets, the way of treating abandoned and lost animals (pets), and the way of managing and controlling their reproduction and collection of abandoned animals. and lost animals.

In accordance with veterinary law, veterinary activity includes protection and control of health and wellbeing of animals, suppression of zoonosis, Kontroll Security and health care products of animal origin and animal food and other activities veterinary public Health, the promotion of animal reproduction and the viewpoint of healthisnot forprotection animals and veterinary protection of the environment that can be performed by legal entities under the conditions and in the manner prescribed by this law: Specialist Veterinary Laboratory, Veterinary ambulance, specialist veterinary ambulancions and veterinary services in accordance with this law.

**Veterinary Organizations (Veterinary Chamber, Specialized Veterinary Laboratory, UVMPCG ", Association of Veterinarians of Montenegro, Veterinary Ambulances and Specialized Veterinary Ambulances)**

In accordance with the Law on Veterinary Medicine, veterinary activity includes protection and control of animal health and welfare, suppression of zoonoses, control of safety and health of products of animal origin and animal feed and other veterinary public health activities, improvement of animal reproduction from the point of view of animal health and veterinary environmental protection that may be performed by legal persons under the conditions and in the manner prescribed by this Law, namely: Specialized veterinary laboratory, veterinary dispensaries, specialist veterinary dispensaries and veterinary service in accordance with this Law.

Registered veterinary dispensaries implement measures to ensure the health of dogs, rabies vaccination, infectious diseases, treatment of ecto and endo parasites, identification and registration of dogs, and entry of information in the Register. Identification of dogs, their vaccination, registration in the Register of passports is performed by a veterinary clinic or a specialist veterinary clinic or veterinary service. The Ordinance on the manner of keeping a register and issuing a pet passport prescribes the manner in which the pet register is kept and the passport form.

**Association of Small Practice Veterinarians of Montenegro**

**Non-governmental organizations and citizens' associations**

Animal welfare non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are important partners of competent institutions that contribute to raising public awareness and the need to implement dog population control measures and can also contribute to responsible public ownership education. International non-governmental organizations for the protection of animals cooperate with the competent authorities and non-governmental organizations active on this topic in Montenegro.

The problem of abandoned dogs is closely linked to human behavior and it is therefore necessary to achieve the goal of raising awareness of the wider community, with the great contribution and support that can be given by the civilian sector and the people concerned with the welfare of animals and their representative in the National Council for the Protection of Animals.

**State and local media**

The media is necessary to support awareness-raising activities and responsible ownership at the national level in all segments, which generally covers the improvement of animal welfare conditions with all direct and indirect actors contributing to the promotion of responsible ownership.

### **Dog owners**

The dog owner is obliged to:

- provide identification and registration of the pet (Article 110 of the Veterinary Law);
- ensure the control of the reproduction and care of the pet, and in the case of uncontrolled breeding when it is unwilling or unable to care for the pups, it shall bear the costs of their care (paragraph 2 of Article 22 of the Animal Welfare Act).  
Reproduction control can be ensured through chemical contraception or surgical sterilization of the dog;
- provide the pet with comfortable accommodation, care and care according to the species, race, sex, age, physical and biological characteristics and behavioral and health needs of the animal (paragraph 1 of Article 22 of the Animal Welfare Act);
- it is also prohibited to leave a domestic animal, pet or farmed wild animal and other animals kept under supervision (Article 8 of the Animal Welfare Act);
- ensure protection of the dog against diseases and implementation of preventive measures for the control of diseases of interest to Montenegro. Vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies is carried out by veterinarians at the request of the owner. The costs of carrying out the vaccination of dogs and cats shall be borne by the keeper of the animal, except in the case of vaccination of domestic animals on the order of an official veterinarian. Prevention of Echinococcosis is carried out by dehelminthization during rabies vaccination.

### **CURRENT SITUATION ON THE TERRITORY OF MONTENEGRO**

In Montenegro, a demographic survey was conducted in 2019 in six municipalities, which showed that 52% of the respondents had a pet, of which 53.92% had a dog, indicating that the trend of dog ownership is constantly increasing and that the solution will require a comprehensive, coordinated and a progressive program of owner education, environmental management, mandatory identification and registration, controlled breeding and sales, development and supervision of abandoned and street dogs.

There are currently no reliable data on the number of owned dogs and street dogs in Montenegro. There is also a lack of data on the size, dynamics and composition of the dog population. A public call to NGOs entitled "Collecting and Updating Research Data) on the Number of Stray Dogs" published by the MPRR in May 2018 is the first step in collecting this data. This information is crucial to identifying sources of dogs on the streets and enabling set clear control program goals and indicators for monitoring and evaluation In addition, assessments must include demographic research with a particular focus on owner attitudes and behavior.

The dog identification and registration system was put in place on September 28, 2019 and it is expected that it will bring about key changes, especially related to the responsible behavior of owners and will affect the number of abandoned dogs. A number of owner dogs

have already been microchipped at the request of the owner by registered veterinary clinics with microchips that do not have a country code.

So far, only two kennels that breed small animals have been registered in the register of pet breeders kept by the Directorate. According to the Kennel Club of Montenegro, there are 81 kennels, which are registered with the International Kennel Federation FCI. There are 30 kennels active. The total number of litters raised in 2017 is 132 with 583 puppies. The total number of litters bred in 2018 is 97 with 401 puppies.

Based on the questionnaire on the program of control of abandoned dogs at the level of local self-governments agreed by 25 municipalities of Montenegro: Gusinje, Kolasin, Savnik, Andrijevica, Tuzi, Municipality within the capital Golubovci, Plav, Petnjica, Herceg Novi, Berane, Pljevlja, Pluzine, Mojkovac, Rozaje, Bijelo Polje, Zabljak, Capital of Cetinje, Kotor, Capital Podgorica, Niksic, Bar, Danilovgrad, Tivat, Budva and Ulcinj, the following data were obtained:

- Local governments prescribe city decisions for how to keep their homes the treatment of abandoned and lost pets and how to manage and control their reproduction.
- In Montenegro, 20 out of 25 municipalities have decisions regarding how to keep dogs. Municipalities do not have adopted local programs for the control of the abandoned dog population and no estimates of the condition and number of abandoned dogs have been made, except for one count in Podgorica in 2011.
- The main obstacle in the adoption of local plans is the lack of infrastructure and financial resources, as well as lack of knowledge and staff training.
- Based on the conducted survey, it is evident that at the level of local self-government there is no developed infrastructure for systematic solving of abandoned dogs problem.
- Municipalities also cite lack of financial resources as an obstacle to establishing a system.
- Based on the conducted research, one of the priority activities of the strategy is the development of infrastructure and systems for the control of abandoned dogs, as well as the adoption of local plans for the control of the dog population.
- Ten municipalities allocate funds to control abandoned dogs. This budget funds abandoned dog collection services, the costs of operating shelters, ie payments for collecting and caring for dogs in shelters at the level of other municipalities contracted, as well as paid compensation for injuries caused by abandoned dogs.
- In the territory of Montenegro there are 8 registered shelters operated by utility companies and owned by the following 9 municipalities: Podgorica, Herceg Novi, Budva, Berane, Kotor, Niksic, Pljevlja and Ulcinj (temporary solution). The Kotor Shelter was established and funded by two municipalities, Kotor and Tivat. Seven municipalities that have no shelter have contracts with other municipalities to collect and treat abandoned dogs.

Graph 3. Maximum capacity of 8 registered shelters for abandoned animals  
Ulcinj – 50; Budva – 70; Niksic – 75; Berane – 75; Herzeg Novi - 90; Plevljia 100; Kotor 150; Podgorica 200

**Nb how many exceed this regularly?**

In addition to these there are unregistered shelters. Through a questionnaire sent to non-governmental animal welfare organizations, 8 out of 17 answered in the affirmative. (- ? that there are unregistered shelters?).

UBHVFP, through public calls for support to civil welfare projects addressing animal welfare in 2018 and 2019, identified funding for the improvement of conditions to ensure that such shelters meet the requirements of the ordinance and be registered.

But none of them do, and most are a very long way from it and need substantial investment in infrastructure, policies and staff skills/management.

Based on available records, shelters in Montenegro have accepted 2063 dogs in 2018, of which 419 dogs have been adopted and 241 euthanized.

Where have the rest gone then re maximum capacity – unreliable records

Euthanasia is performed by veterinarians employed at registered dispensaries who have contracts for the health care of dogs with shelter. There is only one drug available in Montenegro for this purpose T 61 (enbutramide / mebezonium / tetracaine), which is used with premedication to bring the animal to an unconscious state. Despite the Ordinance on the classification and treatment of animal by-products and by-products processing methods, most local municipalities do not have a place to dispose of their bodies.

Chart 4. Number of reports of bites to municipalities by citizens. A total of 13 responses – from under 10 to 269!

Chart 5. Amounts paid to citizens for dog bites on an annual basis. A total of 13 responses - \* Results of a survey conducted in 25 municipalities in 2016.

Chart 6. Data from the Institute of Public Health's annual communicable disease report

As local governments are responsible for controlling the population of dogs in public areas, situations of biting of abandoned dogs and attacks on people are so common, and in the period from 2015 to 2017, municipalities in Montenegro paid 457,447. 57 € for dog bite compensation. According to information received from the Institute of Public Health in 2018, 262 post-exposure treatments (PEPs) were performed.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY IN MONTENEGRO**

Based on the current status and recommendations of RES 7.7, the framework objectives of the strategy for controlling the dog population in Montenegro include the following:

1. reducing and controlling the population of abandoned dogs and unattended dogs;
2. improving the health and well-being of the owner-owned and unattended population;
3. building a system for controlling dog populations, strengthening technical capacity and improving conditions in shelters;
4. strengthening the institute of responsible ownership and raising public awareness.
5. reducing the risk of rabies and other zoonoses;
6. reducing the number of bites and other negative occurrences and situations (traffic accidents noise and the like);

7. prevention of damage to the environment and other domestic and wild animals.

## **ACTIVITIES AND MEASURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DOG POPULATION CONTROL SYSTEM**

Based on existing data, the current situation at the local level and the achievement of the objectives of this strategy, the following measures are proposed **with clearly defined deadlines and stakeholders: (where??)**

1. Assessment of existing number of dogs, their distribution and ecology;
2. Continuous harmonization of national regulations with EU regulations and RES standards strengthening the implementation framework; (which regulations? )
3. Education and awareness of responsible ownership;
4. Development of local plans for control and monitoring of dog populations;
5. Control of reproduction;
6. Shelter for abandoned animals;
7. Training and training;
8. Communication strategy;
9. Environmental control.

### **1. Continuous assessment of the existing number of dogs, their distribution and ecology for the control of the population.**

Assessment of the existing number of dogs, their distribution and ecology is an integral part of **the local plan** for controlling the population of dogs, which are the responsibility of the local government, **which must provide resources for continuous monitoring of the population and demographic trends.**

To understand the population dynamics of dogs in a given community, several different methods can be used, methods for obtaining the total population (estimate the total number) and methods for continuously monitoring the density and number of dogs on the streets. Such estimates of the dog population can also reveal problems relating to dogs at the site, which will help in prioritizing key activities in the control system.



When planning local programs, it is important to conduct a demographic survey to determine the source of stray dogs, the behavior of dog owners, and the attitude of citizens toward dogs on the streets. These results must be used in the planning of local programs for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the measures implemented and adapting the measures if the expected results are not achieved.

The recommended methodology is based on the ICAM methodology and is available on the website of the Food, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Administration.

Responsibility: Self government Utilities Secretariats in the local territory are implementing the program, the mayors.

Deadline: Continuous.

## **2. Continuous alignment of national regulations with EU regulations and RES standards and strengthening the implementation framework**

Key legal acts in this area are:

***Law on the Protection of Animal Welfare (Official Gazette of Montenegro 14/08 and 47/15).***

As the needs for better implementation of the law are recognized, procedures for drafting amendments to the Law on Welfare in accordance with the European Union regulations in the field of animal welfare and further clarification of certain provisions will be introduced in the next period, especially in the part of the limitations observed during the implementation of the legal act. so far, as well as creating a complete legal basis for the by-laws in this area.

***Rulebook on the Method of Identifying Dogs and Cats (..CG Gazette 62/18).***

Consistently enforce legal acts concerning the identification and registration of dogs with unique identification tags (microchip) and the establishment of a database at national level that is the responsibility of UBHVPEP. After identification and vaccination by a registered veterinary clinic, dogs are entered into the Pet Registry in accordance with the Law on Veterinary Medicine and the Rulebook on the Identification of Dogs and Cats.

Identifying the dog and registering that dog with the owner in a national database is an important means of reconnecting lost animals with owners. It can also be a basis for law enforcement and foster a sense of responsibility in the owner as the animal becomes recognized as the owner.

Dog registration and identification is a key measure and should be an integral part of any intervention, especially as part of responsible dog ownership because it is linked to animal health programs, such as mandatory rabies vaccination, and allows dogs to be monitored and tracked down if a dog is lost. and the enforcement of a penal policy if the dog is unattended.

It is important to ensure the continued implementation of this tracker so that all dogs are identified by a microchip and registered in the database to obtain a complete picture of the

number of owner dogs and the total dog population. It is also important that all dogs in shelters, shelters, and kennels be identified by a microchip and registered in a central electronic registry.

Responsibility: UBHVFP, veterinary clinics

Deadline: Continuous upon establishment of central base and pet registry.

***Ordinance on the Closer Requirements that Kennels Should Meet (Si List CG "No.21 / 15)***

Reproduction for commercial purposes may be carried out in kennels that meet the requirements for the facility, equipment and conditions necessary for the protection of animal welfare laid down in Article 23 of the Animal Welfare Act (Official Gazette of Montenegro 14/08 and 47/15 ) and the Rulebook on Closer Requirements to be fulfilled by kennels (Official Gazette of Montenegro 21/15).

**Nb I would Recommend BAN REPRODUCTION FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES**

Carry out control of the records and registrations of dog kennels and propose amendments to the existing ordinance governing the number of females and the number of litters per year. Carrier: UBHVEP

Deadline: 2020

**Rulebook on the manner of keeping dangerous dogs (SGM CG "No.31 / 17)**

Improve enforcement and punitive measures in relation to keeping dangerous dogs, the keeping of which is for the time being regulated by the Rulebook on the manner of keeping dangerous dogs ("Official Gazette of Montenegro 31/17) **and consider possible additions to dog breeds identified as dangerous in the ordinance.**

The Animal Welfare Act, Article 11, stipulates that a keeper of an animal cannot be a person under the age of 16 and cannot be sold or donated to an animal, and if a person under the age of 16 owns an animal, the parent or guardian of that person is considered the keeper of the animal. It is also prohibited to keep and treat pets and move them in a way that threatens the health and safety of other animals and humans, especially children.

The most effective means of reducing the frequency of dog bites are education aimed at raising awareness and responsibility of dog owners **and applying the penal provisions laid down in the Animal Welfare Act. Establishing a dog identification and registration system is important for finding a dog owner. One of the measures** of protection against dog attacks is the **registration of dangerous dogs** and the development of responsible ownership. The owner who holds the dangerous dog should receive training with the dog, with a check on the degree of socialization of the dog. If, after checking the degree of socialization, the dangerous dog does not reach a satisfactory level of socialization, if it still poses a danger to other people and animals, such a dog is not kept and killed in a humane manner. **The training of dogs can be performed by legal or natural persons registered and recorded in the**

records for this activity with the Kennel Club of Montenegro. nb – kennel club people should not be only recognised trainer

Local government decisions on how to keep pets reduce the chance of being bitten and endangered by other animals and humans.

Responsibility: Local governments through city decisions, UBHVP in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Deadline: Continuous

### **3. Educate and raise awareness of responsible ownership**

An OIE assessment carried out in the Western Balkans region in 2015-2018 identified that the largest source of street dogs is irresponsible ownership and to launch a "Be his hero" campaign through the OIE European Animal Welfare Platform. The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness among school children of the Balkan Peninsula about responsible ownership, obligations they have as current and future owners, pet keepers and all elements of responsible ownership. The goal of this project is to impactfully reduce the number of abandoned dogs and owner dogs unattended.

In 2019, a planned Responsible Dog Keeping Campaign was conducted through the IPA 2014 project to strengthen the veterinary sector and will be the first in a series of campaigns to provide a long-term and effective presentation of the concept of responsible ownership. Campaigns will be monitored and evaluated to make the following campaigns as effective as possible.

In the long term, education is one of the most important elements of a comprehensive approach to population management, as human behavior is a very influential factor in the dynamics of dog populations. In general, education should encourage greater ownership of dog owners. Also, there are specific key education messages that would be important to emphasize during different educational activities, for example: bite prevention, selection and care of dogs, what is expected of a responsible owner, reference to the importance and ability to access preventative treatments, knowledge of normal and abnormal dog behavior.

Training on the behavior of dogs, habits and attitudes of children towards them should include the following:

(i) information on choosing the right breed of dog and ensuring the health and well-being of the dog, which includes habituation of the dog to its environment and socialization and training of the dog;

(ii) identification and registration of dogs and entry in the Pet Registry kept by the Board;

(iii) prevention of diseases, in particular rabies, echinococcosis and leishmaniasis by regular vaccination and treatment against endo and ecto parasites;

(iv) purpose education to reduce the incidence of bites, especially children;

(v) the prevention of adverse effects of dogs on the community through pollution (eg faeces and noise), causing traffic accidents and risks to other dogs, wildlife, pets and other pets;

(vi) control of dog breeding through control of reproduction and restriction of movement of females in estrus.

Educational initiatives should be **developed in coordination with local educational institutions and should be carried out by trained professionals**. It is essential to include **all potential sources of dog education to ensure that the messages are consistent. Ideally, this would bring all groups from the animal welfare area together; veterinarians, schools, institutions, enforcement organizations and the media**. Educational messages can be transmitted in a variety of ways, including through formal seminars and lectures in schools, leaflets and brochures distributed to cynical audiences, raising public awareness through print, billboards, radio and TV. **NGOs missing from list ...embed in school curricular as requirement ie have at least x sessions**

Responsibility: UBHVFP in cooperation with relevant institutions and local governments. The planning and implementation of these activities should involve the Ministry of Education, NGOs, local governments, veterinary clinics, national and local media.

Deadline: Continuous.

#### **4. Shelters for abandoned animals**

The Law on Animal Welfare defines that the organization and collection of abandoned animals (pets) are performed by local self-governments or hygienic services, which are to be equipped with vehicles for transport and personnel trained for the said activities, which is specified in the Rulebook on conditions that boarding houses and shelters for abandoned animals should fulfill (Official Gazette of Montenegro 28/15). Capturing, transporting and keeping abandoned animals (pets) in shelters should be carried out in a manner **that does not cause suffering to the animal, pain and fear under** the Animal Welfare Act.

Shelters for abandoned animals (pets) can be set up by companies and entrepreneurs, or other legal entities in locations where the placement of animals will not disturb public order and peace.

The Food, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Safety Directorate keeps a register of temporary accommodation facilities (guesthouses and shelters) and is responsible for the tasks of

determining the fulfillment of the veterinary and sanitary conditions, which are determined by direct inspection of the facilities by the commission of this body. The more detailed conditions to be fulfilled by boarding houses and shelters, the manner of training persons and the manner of keeping a register are laid down in the Ordinance on the more detailed conditions to be met by boarding houses and shelters for abandoned animals (Official Gazette of Montenegro 28/15).

The shelter for abandoned animals (pets) shall:

- receive reports of abandoned and lost animals;
- collect and transport lost and abandoned animals to shelters, organized independently or in cooperation with local self-government units;
- take over the abandoned and lost animal and provide it with accommodation in accordance with the reception capacities, and recommendations on the operation of the shelter;
- provide veterinary animal health protection by registered veterinary dispensaries, and provide an employee trained in animal care;
- look for holders of abandoned and lost pets or domesticated animals;
- keep records of the animals found and their care or killing.
- If the pet holder does not request to be returned within 15 days of being admitted to the shelter, the pet may be adopted. The person who domesticates the found animal is required to sign a statement of foster care;
- if the animal is not domesticated or cared for otherwise within 30 days of being housed in the shelter, it may be euthanized as a last resort, but all other facilities must be exhausted beforehand. - HOW CAN YOU SHOW WHAT POSSIBILITIES WERE TRIED AND EXHAUSTED. Killing just exacerbates problem etc etc A veterinarian must perform the procedure of killing dogs in accordance with the law.
- 
- Nb – shelters for all ANIMALS NOT JUST DOGS!!

The Ordinance on the more detailed requirements for boarding houses and shelters for abandoned animals stipulates that the training of animal carers is carried out in seminars according to a program containing the basics in the field of animal welfare, Five freedoms<sup>1</sup> basics in animal physiology, the needs of animals for food and water, the way animals are treated, the basics of the means and means of collecting, transporting and handling during transport, and the conditions of means of transport.

Nb – for training need competent staff and managers - just to state in law not enough – must be demonstrated – ie competency based testing and employment

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<sup>1</sup> 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst by providing sufficient quantities of quality food and fresh water; 2. Freedom from discomfort by providing adequate shelter and resting place 3. Freedom from pain, injury and illness through the provision of prompt and adequate veterinary care and preventive care health care; 4. Freedom from fear and stress through providing conditions and procedures that do not lead to mental suffering animals; 5. Freedom to manifest the basic forms of behavior characteristic of the species through the provision of sufficient space, adequate animal holding facilities and an appropriate animal society of the same species. The concept of the five freedoms is embedded in the foundations of all international and national animal welfare regulations

Shelters for abandoned animals (pets) should be flow-through and not exceed their pre-determined capacity in order to ensure a high standard for the animals contained therein. The shelter is also not intended for long stay dogs and is only justified in exceptional situations.

Registered dog shelters can implement the following measures:

- (i) Capturing and receiving dogs, returning to the owner if the dog is lost;
- (ii) Capturing and adopting dogs, sheltering the shelter while no new owner is found;
- (iii) Capture and admission of dogs, vaccination and sterilization and return to the same territory as from the dog came and complied with all the rules regarding catch-sterilise-release CNR;
- (iv) Capture and acceptance, health and temperament assessment, and euthanasia in accordance with existing law. The euthanasia decision is the sole decision of the veterinarian employed by the registered dispensary and it would be desirable to form a 3-member ethics committee at shelters to be consulted and involved in euthanasia decisions.
- (v) If the pet holder has not submitted a request for its return within 15 days from the day of admission to the shelter, the pet can be adopted. Euthanasia of dogs in animal shelters is only possible after 30 days from the day of bringing the dog to the shelter for abandoned animals (pets) only after all other options have been exhausted.

It is the duty of the local government to ensure the innocuous disposal of the corpses in accordance with the Rulebook on the classification and treatment of animal by-products and by-products processing methods (Official Gazette of Montenegro 42/15) that has not yet been fully implemented.

The UBHVFP will provide instructions and a manual for permitted methods of catching dogs and Establishment of an abandoned dog control service and guidance on work in animal shelters in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

Responsibility : Local governments [nb add - UBHVFP minimum standards and competencies for staff employment /training](#)

Deadline: 2021 years

Application: continuous

[Strengthen monitoring evaluation and management and law enforcement. Vet care protocols and disease management guidelines](#)

## **5. Reproduction control**

Responsible ownership reproduction control is an instrumental factor in the control and management of dog populations. This can be achieved by surgical or chemical contraception and physical isolation of the females in the oestrus. Critically, sterilization strategies should link to initial population estimates to identify groups of dogs that have high reproductive capacity.

Animal populations are limited by survival, reproduction and movement. Decreasing reproduction is a humane way of limiting population growth. If reproduction controls are used in a targeted manner to prevent unwanted litter, this leads to a supply-demand balance where the number and type of dogs produced corresponds to the number and type the community seeks. Where there are unattended or ownerless dog populations reproduction control is used to stabilize or reduce their number to an acceptable level.

According to Article 22 of the Animal Welfare Act and according to the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), breeding control is the responsibility of the owner and is the responsibility of the dog owner, who is responsible for ensuring the control of the breeding of animals under his supervision. Propagation control is an integral part of responsible ownership. Propagation control methods include the following:

(i) surgical sterilization; (ii) chemical contraception; (iii) separation of females during oestrus from unsterilized males.

Surgical sterilization can only be performed by a licensed veterinarian and it involves an appropriate method of anesthesia and pain relief. All medicinal products and other products used in the control of reproduction should be safe, of good quality and effective for the required purpose, and used in accordance with the manufacturer's regulations and approved by the Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices of Montenegro.

Subsidizing sterilization programs by state or other authorities and organizations in combination with other dog population control measures can greatly help reduce stray dogs and the initial implementation phase, but it is very important to plan for the sustainability of such a system after the subsidy is over.

Catch-Neuter-Release (CNR) can be used as a transitional measure to control the population in a particular locality where citizens are informed of the goals and expected results of CNR intervention. It is necessary to establish a system of surveillance for dogs covered by the CNR program, which will be identified and prominently marked. Returned dogs must be supervised by a guardian who will accept the responsibility of taking care of them. CNR can be used as a transitional measure until a comprehensive system is built and a dog population is stabilized.

CNR is misunderstood as a unique method for controlling dog populations. However, CNR is one way to control reproduction and as with any other population control measure, it must be used in combination with other measures.

CNR is not enforceable in all locations; it requires a tolerant community that accepts stray dogs and is prepared to care for street dogs. It is also important that there is approval from the authorized CNR institutions and that the CNR is integrated into the control system. CNR is not an appropriate method for all dogs; it should be applied on an individual basis and include dogs for which this method is most appropriate. For example, foster care may be more appropriate for some dogs, such as well-socialized puppies, while dogs causing conflict through aggressive behavior may not be suitable for returning to the territory where they are caught.

The CNR method can reduce the number of puppies born, but where puppy mortality is a large dog population, it is not maintained by reproduction but by abandonment and movement of dogs, and it is therefore important to combine CNR with other measures to influence the size of the adult dog population. The percentage of females to be sterilized annually depends on the potential rate of population growth (the number of dogs that will reproduce after one year, compared to the original number of dogs).

Dogs must be returned to where they were caught after the post-operative period as soon as possible and not longer than 7 days. This maintains the dog population in their original territories by accessing the same resources as before capture, and avoids the risk of aggression between dogs resulting from release to other territories.

Sterilization and castration of dogs going to foster care is not the same as implementing the CNR method and returning to a territory that is conducted in such a way as to sterilize and castrate as many dogs as possible.

Campaigns promoting the sterilization of proprietary dogs need to be continually implemented, as proprietary dogs are recognized as one of the main sources of street dogs and population increases.

Responsibility: veterinary organizations, veterinary clinics and NGO sector. Deadline: continuous

## **6. A local program to monitor and monitor dog populations**

It is necessary to form a working group at the local level, which will be composed of representatives of interested groups (local governments, NGOs, veterinarians) for the adoption of local programs for the control of the dog population containing the following elements:

- Assess the situation with the recommended methodology
- Assessment of program implementation capacity and sustainability
- Planning of program implementation resources
- Development of technical capacities and infrastructure to capture, transport, hold, veterinary treatment, re-homing of stray dogs
- Dog shelters should provide veterinary care in accordance with the animal welfare Protection Act



- Program monitoring and evaluation
- Communal waste control

Adopting a program of operational measures at the local level in accordance with the results of the assessment and specificity of the environment aimed at:

- (1) improving the health and well-being of the owner-owned, abandoned and street dogs population;
- (ii) reducing and controlling the population of abandoned and street dogs;
- (iii) promoting responsible ownership and raising public awareness;
- (iv) reducing the risk of rabies, echinococcosis, leishmaniasis and other zoonoses;
- (v) reduction of bites and other non-negative occurrences and situations (road accidents, noise and the like);
- (vi) the prevention of damage to the environment and other domestic and wild animals.

As appropriate, the UBHVFP will issue guidelines for monitoring the program, enabling the comparison of important factors against the basics measured during the initial assessment. Local programs must be in line with the legal framework and national strategy. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation is of great importance in order to evaluate the success of the program and to plan activities and the results should be reported annually to the UBHVFP and the Animal Protection Council.

The main reasons for monitoring and evaluating programs are:

- (i) improving implementation, identifying problems and successful measures of action;
- (ii) an assessment of the situation to show the extent to which the program achieves its objectives;
- (iii) comparison of the success of strategies used in different locations and in different locations situations (assuming the methods are standardized).
- (iv) Regular program alignment.

Monitoring and evaluation is an ongoing process that seeks to check the progress of programs and program measures against the objectives defined by the strategy and local program and allows for regular alignment.

The general indicators to follow are:

- dog population size, distribution and density,
- the health and well-being of dogs in the target population (eg body condition, skin condition, injury or limp) dogs covered by the program e.g. CNR (if interventions involve direct treatment of dogs, the welfare of dogs should be monitored as a result of that treatment);
- the incidence of zoonoses in animals and humans; (who?)
- community attitude and behavior towards dogs, ownership trends and responsibility of owners;

There are many sources of information that can be used for monitoring purposes including:

- feedback from municipalities / local governments (eg through the use of questionnaires or surveys);

- information and opinions obtained from relevant experts (eg veterinarians, physicians);
- measurements and estimates of the number and fitness of dogs (direct observations and estimates of number and density).

Implementing authority: local governments in cooperation with the relevant partner institutions (UBHVFP, Animal Protection Council, local veterinarians, NGOs) **public health**

**Time limit: two years from the adoption of the strategy with annual reporting on the results**

## **7. Continuous training and development**

The technical and professional capacity at the local level required to implement a national action plan for controlling dog populations will initially be limited. When designing local programs, it is necessary to identify technical and professional needs and develop a training plan to strengthen professional and technical capacity. In order to achieve successful and effective dog control at the local level, it is necessary to develop a population control system, including all technical and professional capacity and knowledge at all levels, with the possibility of additional training for those already working on dog population control.

Areas that must be included in the technical training program of all actors involved in the design and implementation of dog population control programs that must meet the standards prescribed by law and recognized international best practice standards. This includes the following areas:

- additional training for veterinary staff employed in shelters;
- conditions for capture and transportation;
- dog accommodation and shelter management;
- domestication procedures;
- euthanasia - when how euthanasia should be performed;
- record keeping and regular data analysis - although not directly affecting animal care, keeping records regularly covering the incidence of injuries or illnesses can help identify the part of the program that may be detrimental to health. For example, an unusually large number of cases of post-operative complications at a given time may indicate the need for additional training of certain staff or changes in post-operative care.

Target groups for training are employees of the veterinary sector (including UBHVFP employees whose jobs and work qualifications are directly related to this topic). At the local level, training should be targeted at the heads of municipal organizations and those in local administrations responsible for developing the program controls on the dog population, all shelter staff, and NGOs that have registered shelters.

The implementation of these activities should include the Veterinary Chamber of Montenegro and the Association of Veterinarians of Small Practices, as well as possible other educational institutions implementing vocational training programs through a public call.

Implementing bodies: VKCG, UVMPCG, Animal Protection Council

Deadline: one year from the adoption of the strategy

## Competencies

### **8. Communication and promotion of national strategy**

It is crucial that all those who directly or indirectly deal with the problem of abandoned dogs participate in the consultation process. The participatory approach should be used to the fullest extent possible by people being consulted in the process and their suggestions being used in designing future interventions. In this way, the program will be much better received in the local community and its chances of success will be greater.

It should be emphasized that the problem of street dogs is a socio-economic problem and it is therefore necessary to involve and receive support from the wider community. It is imperative that each program be supported and involve the interests of the local community that will support the prescribed methods and goals.

It is necessary to develop a communication strategy that will accompany the promotion and implementation of this strategic document and develop a program of activities that will involve national and local media in order to create positive preconditions for the implementation of the strategy at the local level, and based on its monitoring define the structure of future campaigns in the coming years of the strategy.

In the initial phase of strategy implementation, it is proposed to organize forums and workshops at the local level to create a positive context for strategy implementation and ensure the support of the local community and all relevant representatives at the local level.

Carrier: UBHVEP

Deadline: Communication strategy completed by the second half of 2019.

### **9. Environmental control**

Environmental controls should be taken through steps to prevent abandoned animals from sources of food (eg garbage dumps and access to slaughterhouses) and the placement of garbage containers in a way that is inaccessible to stray animals.

Dogs are motivated to wander in public places where they have access to resources such as food. In order to limit wandering, especially in certain areas where dogs are not tolerated (eg schools and public parks), access to these resources must be restricted. This should be done carefully and in conjunction with measures that reduce the stray population, to prevent dogs starving when food sources are removed or when they move to another location to find a source of food.

This can be achieved in several ways: regular removal of garbage from homes and public bins, fencing garbage collection and disposal sites, controlling the removal of corpses and entrails, using bins that prevent the feeding of animals such as those with heavy lids, or placing bins out of reach of animals, educating or implementing measures to prevent the dumping of garbage (and therefore the accidental feeding of dogs) and to stop deliberate feeding of dogs in certain locations.

Where a CNR program is implemented as a transitional measure, the feeding and feeding of animals is permitted, which will be regulated by city decisions and a local program for the control of the dog population.

Implementing authority: local governments, utility companies Deadline: 2021

### **REQUIRED RESOURCES FOR STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION**

Following the adoption of the strategy, an implementation plan for key activities for the implementation of the operational objectives, a description of the activities, a method of reporting and evaluation and a financial plan with cost estimation should be developed.

In order to address stray dogs, the competent authorities should have at their disposal resources such as:

- human resources for regulatory enforcement and enforcement oversight, monitoring and evaluation;
- establishment of interinstitutional cooperation for the purpose of adoption, implementation and sustainability of the strategy;
- human resources professionally trained at local government level to develop and implement stray dog control programs and control the implementation of dog population control programs;
- financial resources for the development of services and infrastructure with respect to the facility, equipment locally for collecting abandoned and lost dogs, population control and treating dogs in accordance with the city decision and other relevant regulations;
- Continuous professional training and improvement of service employees, dog accommodation and keeping facilities;
- cooperative activities or establishing cooperation with other stakeholder groups concerned with the protection of animal welfare at national and international levels in order to raise public awareness and promote responsible ownership

whose responsibility? considering lack of resources was major obstacle

Relevant sources:

1. Law on the Protection of Animal Welfare (Official Gazette of Montenegro 14/08 and 47/15);
2. Veterinary Act (Official Gazette of Montenegro 30/12 48/15 and 57/15);
3. Ordinance on measures to prevent the occurrence of echinococcus multilocularis in dogs ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 22/16);
4. Ordinance on the method of identification of dogs and cats (Official Gazette of Montenegro 60/18).
5. Ordinance on the manner of keeping a register and issuing a pet passport (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 60/18). 53/15);
6. Rulebook on amendments to the Rulebook on the manner of keeping the register and issuing of passports for domestic use Pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 52/17):

7. Rulebook on conditions for the non-commercial movement of pets (Official Gazette of Montenegro 42/16).
8. Rulebook on the manner of keeping dangerous dogs ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 31/17);
9. Ordinance on the classification and treatment of animal by-products i by-product processing methods (Official Gazette of Montenegro 42/15);
10. Rulebook on closer conditions for boarding houses and shelters for abandoned persons animals (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 28/15);
11. Rulebook on closer conditions to be met by kennels (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 21/15)
12. Ordinance on measures for the prevention of emergence, identification, suppression and eradication rabies in animals (Official Gazette of Montenegro 53/03)
13. Ordinance on the closer conditions to be fulfilled by facilities intended for training dogs („ Sl. Gazette of Montenegro ", No. 30/2016)
14. Law on Communal Services (" Official Gazette of Montenegro 55/16 and 74/16)
15. OIE-Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2009, Chapter 7.7. Guidelines on straydog population control.
16. Test results conducted in the context of the OIE Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe, <http://rpawe.oie.int/index.php?id=4>
17. ICAM, Dog Population Management Guidelines.
18. ICAM, Are We Making a Difference.