



Stray dogs in Romania

National legislation before 2013

- ◆ Government Emergency Ordinance from 2002 concerning the approval of the stray dogs management program,
- ◆ Approved by the Law in 2002.
- ◆ Provisions:
 - Local Councils are responsible to build shelters for stray dogs
 - Minimum functioning conditions for the dog shelters
 - Feeding of dogs and cleanliness of the shelter
 - Dogs capture and transport
 - Claim and adoption
 - Dogs euthanasia

Experience

- ◆ Romania has a specific legislation for stray dog population control from 2002 but:
 - The legislation did not have a clear norms for applications
 - Impossibility of monitoring the dogs due to the lack of identification and registration at national level
 - Lack of provisions concerning the sterilization of all common breed dogs
 - The provisions were applied by each council in different manner, without any clear plan of measures

Results

- ◆ Low efficiency of the measures applied
- ◆ Stray dog population remains at the same levels, particularly in Bucharest
- ◆ There were a lot of number of stray dogs attacks to human
- ◆ Follow the last attack (September 2013) - 4 years boy died
- ◆ The Romanian society was split in two concerning stray dogs
- ◆ However entire society request the disappearance of the stray dogs from the street
- ◆ Huge pressure to the public authorities to enforce an efficient set of measures in order to assure the safety of the citizens and to control a stray dog population

Amendments of the National Legislation in 2013

- ◆ The amending Law was approved by the parliament in September 2013
- ◆ Clear provisions regarding measures, order of applying, responsibilities and control
- ◆ National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority has to elaborate norms for:
 - application of the law
 - identification and registration for all dogs from Romania
- ◆ Application norms were posted on October 11th for public consultation:

http://www.ansvsa.ro/documente/admin/Project%20norme%20metodologie%20OUG%20nr.%20155%202001_37782ro.pdf

Supplementary provisions introduced by the amending Law in 2013

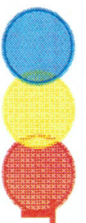
- ◆ Stray dog definition,
- ◆ Compulsory schedule for claiming and adoption of the dogs,
- ◆ Conditions that have to be fulfilled at claiming or adoption (space, financial resources, statement to be filled in),
- ◆ Compulsory sterilization of all common breed dogs (except utilitarian dogs),
- ◆ NGOs participation in all the activities related to stray dog population control
- ◆ Compulsory identification and registration of all dogs from Romania
- ◆ Institutions involved in control and penalties.
- ◆ Euthanasia as a last measure after 14 working days, just for the dogs which are not claimed, adopted at distance or kept in the shelter due to the local administration decision.

Objectives of the national stray dog population control program

- ◆ Improvement of the dogs health and welfare:
 - medical examination at the entrance in the public shelters
 - medical treatment for parasites,
 - rabies vaccine,
 - sterilization (common breed dogs)
 - identification and registration of all dogs – national database
- ◆ Increasing of the dog owners responsibility (through compulsory identification and registration - abandon is avoided),
- ◆ Decreasing of the zoonoses risk: parasitosis and rabies
- ◆ Decreasing of illegal trade of dogs

Application norms

- ◆ Details regarding capturing, handling and transport of dogs,
- ◆ Public information regarding the claim, adopt or adopt at distance of a stray dog,
- ◆ The extension of the housing period in the public shelters of the dogs which were neither claimed, directly adopted or adopted at distance,
- ◆ The participation of animal protection associations or foundations in all activities related to stray dog population control,
- ◆ Medical examination, treatment and vaccination of dogs,
- ◆ Mandatory records in public and private shelters (animal protection associations and foundations shelters),
- ◆ Details regarding euthanasia of stray dogs and their disposal.



Legal provisions are based on the OIE recommendations on stray dog population control

- Similar provisions:
- Responsibilities and competences (veterinary services, other Governmental institutions, private veterinarians, NGOs, local administrations, dogs owners)
- Introducing the sterilization: in order to limit the dogs reproduction
- Introducing the compulsory identification and registration (prevent the abandon)
- Compulsory rabies vaccination of all the dogs even the stray dogs
- The control of dangerous dogs: specific legislation
- Provisions applicable for stray dogs shelters
- Pollution prevention – provisions regarding hygiene maintenance in public spaces and rendering
- Norms regarding dogs euthanasia (in the application norms all the OIE standards related to the euthanasia - forbidden procedures and practices, etc - were taken word by word)

Stray dog population control program

Comply with all provisions regarding the supplementary measures concerning stray animals provided in the European Convention on protection of pet animals, ratified by Romania in 2004:

- ◆ Capturing and housing of dogs
- ◆ Identification and registration
- ◆ Dogs sterilization
- ◆ Encouraging of adoptions introducing the concept of adoption at distance
- ◆ Euthanasia methods