Save the dogs: Ileana, an 83 years old widow living on a small pension had her main companion, dog Bobita, sterilised and registered for free by Save the Dogs.

Dog population management in Cernavodă, Romania

Global context

Here at World Animal Protection, we have been advising and supporting governments on humane dog population management for more than 30 years. Together we are building a world where people respect and value dogs and act compassionately towards them to create a harmonious existence.

Where problems do exist, such as rabies transmission and dog attacks, we advocate comprehensive multi-faceted humane dog population management programmes with a One Health focus[1]. These address the root causes of problems associated with free-roaming dogs while also improving their welfare.

We follow the International Companion Animal Management Coalition's dog population management methodology[2]. This

Case study

In this case study, we outline the steps taken by our partner organisation Save the Dogs since 2002 to initiate a humane dog population management programme in Cernavodă, Romania. We show how their comprehensive approach has benefits for both dogs and the communities around them.

involves: education and training; primary dog healthcare (vaccination and reproduction control); identification and registration; legislation; holding facilities and rehoming centres, and limiting access to resources like food waste.

Footprints of Joy: World Animal Protection visiting Footprints of Joy, on the right Sara Turetta.

Designing a humane dog management programme

The first step in achieving a successful and sustainable humane dog management programme is clearly stating the specific problem and identifying the affected stakeholders. The factors that precipitate these issues need to be assessed and understood[3].

Romania has a large owned and unowned free-roaming dog population. Rural areas especially have a large number of dogs. The dog population has been a struggle to control for decades and is likely the results of the1980s urbanisation policy. People were then moved from rural areas to city apartments and many had to leave their dogs behind to fend for themselves.

According to ANSVSA (Romania's national veterinary authority) there are an estimated 4 million owned dogs in Romania. The number of unowned dogs is not known. No proper research has been done to establish the number of unowned dogs but estimates vary from 500,000 and 3 million[4]. In an attempt to control the growing dog population, Romania has periodically used culling[5] but this has proved to be ineffective as the problem persists.

A new dog control law[6, 7] was introduced on 25 September 2013 in response to the death of a four-year-old boy after a dog attack earlier that month. This law requires sterilisation of all crossbreed dogs, identification of all dogs through microchipping combined with registration on a national database and dogs from the streets to be placed in shelters. Dogs were to be kept in the shelter for a maximum of 14 days after which they could be put down, irrespective of if they were healthy or not. This section of the law and reports of inhumane treatment of dogs in public shelters and cullings sparked great international protests.

World Animal Protection contacted Romanian national and local authorities and NGOs in 2014 to gain their support to find a comprehensive humane solution for their dog population management issues.

We are now working nationally and locally in the country building examples of good practice with our partner organisations Save the Dogs in Cernavodă and Asociatia Milioane de Prieteni (AMP) in Braşov. Both NGOs have a long-term commitment to the welfare of animals in Romania. They have also successfully worked on dog population management issues with local authorities[8].

We expect that the approaches currently being trialled in large city and rural locations can be adopted and expanded by Romanian local authorities elsewhere. They can then be used to develop a National Action Plan for Romania for a nationwide dog population management programme.

Save the Dogs

Save the Dogs was founded in 2002 by Sara Turetta, an Italian, who was alerted about the poisoning of dogs in Cernavodă. She offered the local authorities a sterilisation programme in exchange for halting the culling of dogs. This programme and their subsequent dog population management work has since been strongly endorsed by Cernavodă's mayor George Hansa.

Save the Dogs owns two shelters in Cernavodă and one in the city of Medgidia. Their main centre in Cernavodă is called Footprints of Joy[9]. This is a sanctuary for horses, donkeys and, since 2012, for dogs as well. It has the capacity to hold 350 dogs. The facility on Medgidia can hold a maximum of 150 dogs.

The Footprints of Joy shelter also plays an important role in Save the Dogs' education programme. School children of different ages visit the shelter, interact with the animals and learn about responsible dog ownership.

The organisation ensures that dogs in the streets are healthy. It takes those suffering from diseases like mange, ticks and fleas or injured dogs to its clinic and removes aggressive dogs from primary school areas. Abandoned dogs found in town are taken to the shelters for treatment and adoption.

Save the Dogs has a mobile clinic that provides veterinary treatment to animals and education in responsible dog ownership to people in remote locations. Services provided include sterilisations, vaccinations, and medical treatments as needed. This is very much appreciated by the residents in these areas.

Starting a programme

Successful implementation depends on identifying root causes of problems associated with free-roaming dogs and engaging with relevant stakeholders[3].

In 2002 there were an estimated 3,000 stray dogs roaming the streets in Cernavodă according to the mayor[10]. No formal population survey had been carried out, however. Poisoning by the local authority was the main means of control.

In 2013 the local authority made its first attempt to officially count the area's dogs via door-to-door and street count methods. A total of 1,600 owned and 250 unowned dogs were reported.

Most dogs in the town are owned, free-roaming, and regularly fed. Unowned free-roaming dogs can be found in the suburban areas. These are likely abandoned dogs from surrounding villages and towns. Abandoned dogs migrate into Cernavodă from other areas and are a constant drain on Save the Dogs and the municipality's resources.

With World Animal Protection's help, Save the Dogs and Cernavodă authorities are now working together on dog population issues with nearby towns and villages. We have organised meetings to help them find common solutions and to encourage them to introduce dog population management as well.

Who takes responsibility for the programme?
Save the Dogs has taken responsibility for a wide range of dog population management issues in Cernavodă. These include sterilisation, rehoming, education, microchipping, registration and health and welfare issues.

In order to stop the culling, Save the Dogs offered the local authorities a sterilisation programme in exchange for halting the culling of dogs.

With local authority support Save the Dogs also runs public awareness campaigns and responsible pet ownership education programmes. Most recently it has worked with the local authority to implement registration and microchipping of dogs as this is now a legal requirement for owned dogs.

Most Save the Dogs' work is funded by international donations. However, the local authority pays for the microchips for the registration programme. It also contributes 34 Euros per dog taken from the streets and kept in the shelters, no matter how long the dog stays. Save the Dogs spends 1 Euro per day per dog kept. This does not include costs for personnel or maintenance of the facility. Under national law local municipalities are responsible for organising and paying for the management of stray dogs, but can devolve specialised services to animal welfare organisations. Cernavodă municipality uses Save the Dogs' expertise to implement dog population management activities through an official contract. This collaboration has contributed greatly to the success of the programme.

Education and training

PROTECȚIA ANIMALELOR LUMII

WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

Îngrijiți-vă câinele

Oamenii și câinii au trăit împreună de peste 10.000 de ani. Câinii sunt ținuți pentru companie, pază, ajutor la turme, precum și drept ajutoare pentru persoanele cu dificultăți de văz, auz sau fizice.

Care for your dog: education material for primary school used by Save the Dogs.

Education
Education is a key part of any humane dog management programme. Problems associated with free-roaming dogs can be traced back to human behaviour. Education can influence human behaviour in a positive way and change people's attitudes towards dogs, and how dogs are treated[3].

Teaching people about responsible dog ownership is key in reducing the large number of unwanted puppies that end up on Romanian streets. The lack of understanding of responsible dog ownership is one of the root causes of the dog-related problems in Romania.

Save the Dogs started a responsible dog ownership education programme in primary schools in Medgidia in 2011, followed by Cernavodă and surrounding villages[11]. The programme includes how to care for dogs, how to interact safely with them and how to prevent dog bites. It reaches around 2,500 children every year.

Training
To guarantee the welfare of the animals in Save the Dogs' care the organisation provides training to all its staff to ensure they have the necessary skills to interact with the dogs and to handle them humanely.

Save the Dogs works closely with the local authorities and provides information on the humane management of dogs. However, training for police officers in animal welfare and understanding of the new legislation pertaining to dogs would also prove beneficial for the collaboration.

Primary dog healthcare

Primary dog healthcare includes: reproduction control, vaccinations and parasite control. Reproduction control may be used to help lower the number of dogs in an area or to lower the probability of various diseases of the reproductive tract. In some cases it can help control aggression and/or the desire to roam too. Vaccinations are essential for the welfare of the dog, and will benefit public health by controlling zoonotic disease transmission[3].

Lack of knowledge, vehicles and money are believed to discourage most people taking their dogs to a vet. Save the Dogs provides emergency veterinary services, free healthcare and animal welfare education to hundreds of poor families in the municipality. It does this through its permanent sites and the mobile clinic in rural areas. Primary dog healthcare is provided free of charge to all dog owners.

Reproduction control
In Romania it is a legal requirement for all crossbreed dogs to be sterilised. Pure breed dogs that have been added to a breed register are however exempt from this.

Initially, Save the Dogs focussed on sterilising stray dogs through a Catch-Neuter-Release programme from 2002-2011. It was launched in Cernavodă in 2002 and in Medgidia in 2005. This approach has changed as it is now illegal to release dogs back onto the streets in Romania. With the further understanding that most dogs on the streets are owned, sterilisation efforts are now focussed on owned dogs instead. This is to prevent the birth of unwanted litters that have a high probability of being abandoned. Sterilisations are provided free of charge to dog owners.

Save the Dogs sterilises between 800 and 1,000 owned dogs each year for free in Cernavodă. All dogs entering their facilities are also sterilised before being rehomed[12].

Vaccinations and parasite control
Annual rabies vaccinations of dogs and cats is mandatory in Romania[13, 14], free of charge and linked to the dog's registration. Local private vets are contracted by the national veterinary authorities to carry out the vaccinations. Save the Dogs vaccinates all dogs entering their shelters[15]. Save the Dogs monitors the roaming dogs and intervenes when they see one with health problems. They then try to locate the owner and provide free medical treatment as necessary or will bring the dog to one of their shelters.

Identification and registration

Identification and registration of dogs are essential parts of a dog management programme. They allow lost dogs to be reunited with owners, help enforce anti-cruelty legislation and can help in surveying the dog population[3].

The Romanian national law requires registration and microchipping of all owned dogs[16] but many people are unaware of this. To tackle this problem a successful door-to-door registration and microchipping campaign backed by public awareness and education activities is run by Save the Dogs and the municipality. The microchips are paid for by the municipality. Save the Dogs microchip the dogs and then registers them on the national database[17] which is run by the national veterinary college[18].

Legislation

Humane dog management programmes need to be supported by both national and local legislation. National legislation should ensure that minimum standards are maintained in its application while local legislation can allow for variables[3].

Romania's animal welfare law 9/2008[19] spells out the general obligation of animal owners (article 5) to their animals. It forbids animal cruelty including abandoning an animal whose existence depends on human care (article 6.2).

There are specific regulations[20] for dangerous dogs, euthanasia, registration, stray dog management, and EU regulations for transport and identification of non-commercial dogs.

Cernavodă introduced local regulations for stray dog management in 2012. The authorities have devolved decisions regarding euthanasia to Save the Dogs. Enforcement of the animal welfare law is problematic due to lack of resources and knowledge. Consequently, criminal cases of animal abuse and abandonment of animals are hardly investigated. To tackle the enforcement issue Save the Dogs is working with the police to investigate cruelty cases.

Holding facilities and rehoming centres

In some communities around the world, free-roaming dogs are well tolerated. However, temporary holding and rehoming facilities may be needed to manage aggressive or problematic unowned dogs, or owned dogs that have strayed from their home. Communities should be encouraged to adopt unwanted dogs from these facilities[3].

Cernavodă has no public shelters. It has three private shelters – two are run by Save the Dogs[21] and one by an association called Spike. Emergency medical care, vaccinations, sterilisations, microchipping and registration, and quarantine facilities are provided for all dogs brought to the Save the Dogs shelters.

Illnesses and injuries mainly seen in dogs entering the shelter are orthopaedic and skin problems[22]. All necessary medical treatments are provided to all dogs entering the shelter. For certain diagnostics and procedures, such as X-Rays and orthopaedic surgeries, dogs are taken to a vet clinic in Bucharest. Save the Dogs does not have these facilities for the procedures at the moment.

On average 40 dogs enter the Save the Dogs shelters every month. These are believed to be mainly abandoned dogs found on the streets. Most stay for up to around five months before they are rehomed.

The staff at the shelters is trained in animal behaviour and a socialisation programme for the dogs is run by them. An international dog behaviour expert comes to inspect this programme twice a year to ensure certain criteria are met.

Rehoming programme
Save the Dogs has set up an effective international adoption programme with partners in Italy, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden and Germany. Around 500 dogs, accounting for an average of 77% of all dogs entering the shelter, are adopted out to other countries each year[23]. Local adoptions account for 8% of all adoptions and are increasing[24].

It takes between six weeks and three months to arrange an international adoption, including the international required medical procedures and paper work.
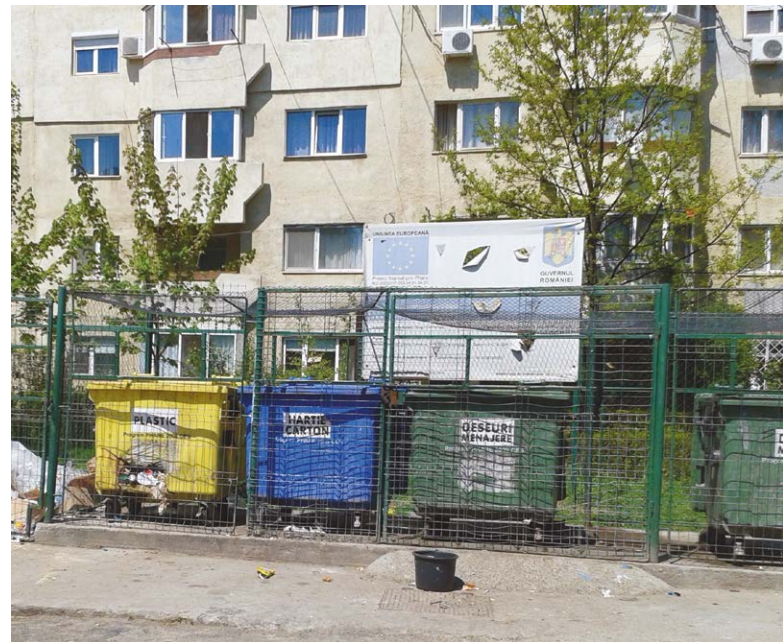
Local adoptions take at least six weeks to allow for the provision of parasite treatment, sterilisation, microchipping, and behaviour assessment. This is only if the animal is healthy and does not require further treatment. Puppies take longer as they can only be vaccinated against rabies after three months of age. There is a preference towards adoption of smaller dogs. This is usually due to people living in apartments or more comfortable with them around their children. Medium and big-sized dogs are therefore harder to find suitable homes for and can spend up to a year in the shelters. Adoptions are promoted through the website and local public campaigns.

The organisation has also set up a sponsor programme for people from abroad to support families with pets in Romania and to support the treatment of dogs that need longer care including socialisation[25].

Controlling access to resources

Dogs may roam in areas where access to resources, such as food waste, is available. For example they may congregate around refuse and garbage dumps. This could precipitate disease transmission and cause public concern particularly in busy areas[3].

Waste management – garbage collection and protection – is a general problem in Romania. Exposed waste can attract stray animals and wildlife. In Cernavodă the local authority has put fences around some garbage collection points as part of an EU sponsored programme. Save the Dogs would like to see this expanded.

Fenced garbage collection point: these points in Cernavodă help prevent dogs from entering

Euthanasia

In the event of incurable illness, injury or behavioural problems with no prospect of recovery, euthanasia may be necessary as part of a dog management programme. It is important for everyone involved in a programme to agree and understand the circumstances under which euthanasia should be used[3].

At Save the Dogs, the criteria for euthanasia includes dogs that are sick with no prospect of recovery and those with severe behavioural issues, unresponsive to socialisation efforts and have no prospect of adapting to a life in human company. It also includes those evaluated as aggressive by a trained person and a vet following a documented bite incident.

Euthanasia is carried out using anaesthetic + T61 injection by qualified and trained staff as this is the only licensed drug for euthanasia in Romania.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation play an important role in the dog population management programme process. They allow a programme's effectiveness to be assessed, issues to be identified and adjustments to be made accordingly. Monitoring and evaluation also allow information regarding successes and failures to be published and shared[3].

Monitoring and evaluation of the programme in Cernavodă is mainly done by observation. Save the Dogs is, however, developing research supported by international NGOs to establish a baseline allowing for better measurement of the results of activities in the region.

A standardised system is recommended to bring together data from the different governmental institutions, the veterinary authorities and NGOs. This will show the success of this programme and others that may be launched in the future and highlight possible problems.

The benefits to dogs and people

The humane dog management efforts implemented by Save the Dogs in Cernavodă have so far brought a significant positive change for both dogs and the community as a whole. The number of stray dogs has decreased by 90% in the area and local adoptions of dogs are on the rise. This is a testament to the attitudinal change amongs the local population towards dogs.

"I want to thank Save the Dogs for putting Cernavodă on the map in such a positive way."
Cernavodă Vice-mayor Ștefan Plesa, April 2015

The veterinary treatment and education programmes have been particularly successful in gaining community support for Save the Dogs and local authority dog population management efforts. Local people are now also more aware of cruelty issues. Save the Dogs has seen an increase of 50% of phone calls regarding dogs on the streets, abuses of dogs or problems with dogs in the town

Recommendations

Educating the public
Education, as highlighted by the Save the Dogs example, is key to the success of any dog population management programme. The lack of understanding of responsible dog ownership is a root cause of dog- related problems in Romania.

World Animal Protection is working with Save the Dogs, Romanian NGOs[26] and the ministry of education on a national education programme for use by all primary schools in Romania. Municipalities throughout the country should encourage education activities through links with schools using materials available from local NGOs and World Animal Protection.

Local awareness raising
Support from both politicians and the local community is vital for the successful introduction of dog population management measures. Politicians should understand dog population management as a permanent policy requiring public resources for the safety and health of people and dogs.

Dog owners should understand what a dog needs and the responsibilities of a responsible owner including legal obligations to vaccinate, sterilise and microchip.

Sterilisation campaign
Uncontrolled breeding and dumping of unwanted puppies is a major problem throughout Romania. To support and increase the efforts done by NGOs, municipalities should encourage and

Mobile clinic: a dog is sterilised in the mobile clinic of Save the Dogs

support sterilisation campaigns. And because of the lack of private vet clinics in rural areas, local authorities should support mobile vet clinics run by NGOs.

Local microchipping campaign

The door-to-door microchipping and registration campaign carried out by Save the Dogs and the local authorities has resulted in easier enforcement of the legal requirements for vaccination and sterilisation. Registration has also made it easier for owners to be traced if dogs are loose on the streets. It is recommended that local authorities throughout Romania ensure that sufficient funds and people are available to follow Cernavodă's example.

Law enforcement

Both authorities and NGOs mention lack of enforcement of legislation as a problem. For example, better enforcement of the law

regarding those refusing to register dogs is required.
Many people are unaware of the legal requirements pertaining to dogs. Public awareness raising campaigns are needed to address this.

Training of police in animal welfare and formal cooperation between NGOs, the police and veterinary authorities will aid effective implementation of legislation.

Regional cooperation

A major problem, highlighted by the Save the Dogs example, is the influx of dogs from surrounding areas where dog population management is not yet in place.

Save the Dogs, with support from the mayor of Cernavodă and World Animal Protection, is able to assist in the organisation of meetings with representatives from surrounding municipalities. The purpose is to explain dog population management and the work they do. A permanent regional committee ensuring the implementation of a dog population management programme by all municipalities in an area would be a major step forward.

Holding facilities and rehoming centres

The shelters run by Save the Dogs are of high standard and regarded as temporary homes for dogs needing rehabilitation and rehoming.

Rehoming centres are generally expensive to run, require consistent funding and are extremely time consuming. These factors drain resources from other necessary dog population measures. Consequently, they are not a recommended solution to the problem of stray dogs.

Rehoming programmes

Rehoming dogs is time consuming and involves proper procedures to ensure that dogs are healthy, social and matched with the right owners. Public confidence is needed in a shelter's rehoming practices and the dogs on offer. Education, awareness raising and adoption campaigns supported by the local authority and the media can foster this.

Waste management

Better waste management is an important measure of dog population management, but is often overlooked in Romania. The municipality of Cernavodă has fenced some garbage collecting areas in the city, but there are still many places left where dogs can gather and collect food. This often attracts stray dogs from surrounding areas.

Euthanasia

Policies on euthanasia are needed as part of dog population management to ensure the welfare of dogs. As in the Cernavodă example, regulations should reflect the local reality. This means allowing time for adoption and not resorting to culling policies that are ineffective to control the number of stray dogs.

Funding of dog population management

Most funding for Cernavodă's programme comes from private donors in other European countries who give to Save the Dogs. But such funding should not detract or substitute from the local government's obligation to allocate a budget for a long-term, sustainable dog population management programme.

It must be stressed that despite initial investments that might be needed, an effective dog population management programme results in an overall reduction of costs over time to both the municipality and citizens.

These can include reduced healthcare costs for humans because of fewer dog bites and incidences of zoonotic diseases, fewer car accidents and fewer abandonments to be dealt with by the local authority.

Better enforcement of legislation through fines for people and institutions violating the animal welfare regulations can provide a source of income.

Conclusion

The introduction of an integrated and comprehensive humane dog management programme has vastly reduced conflict between people and dogs in the Cernavodă community. Educating the public in responsible dog ownership and the benefits of reproduction control means fewer dogs are roaming freely and breeding with other dogs on the streets. Consequently, fewer dogs are seen on the streets.

Save the Dogs' example demonstrates how much can be achieved when local NGOs, governments and World Animal Protection work in partnership to implement a humane dog management programme.

We look forward to moving other regions in Romania to work with us to create a world where dogs and people coexist in harmony.

Notes

1   Free-roaming dogs can cause concerns not only for animals, but also for people and the environment. To address these issues successfully, collaboration between animal health, human health and environmental sectors is imperative. This collaboration is known as the One Health concept.

2   International Companion Animal Management Coalition (2008). Humane dog population management guidance http://www.icam-coalition.org/downloads/Humane_Dog_Population_Management_Guidance_English.pdf (accessed 28/8/2015).

3   World Animal Protection (2015) Humane dog management: Better lives for dogs and communities. Please contact animalsincommunities@worldanimalprotection.org for a copy. Available in Romanian.

4   World Animal Protection received the number of 4 million owned and 500,000 stray dogs from the national veterinarian authority (ANSVSA) end of 2013. Three million is for example mentioned by NGOs: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dr-daniel-allen/justice-for-romanian-stray-dogs_b_5187538.html; http://www.stray-afp.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Animal-welfare-in-Romania1.pdf (accessed 27/8/2015).

5   The Bucharest authorities apparently killed 144,000 dogs between 2001 and 2007: http://www.savethedogs.eu/romania-il-parlamento-reintroduce-l%E2%80%99eutanasia-come-strumento-per-la-gestione-del-randagismo/lang-pref/en/ (accessed 27/8/2015). A culling policy was re-introduced in 2013. In a press release from January 2015 the Bucharest authorities mentioned that from 64,000 stray dogs reported in Bucharest end of 2013, 51,200 were caught of which 30,000 dogs were euthanized. http://www.romania-insider.com/what-happened-to-the-51000-stray-dogs-captured-in-bucharest/139771/ (accessed 27/8/2015).

6   Gillet. K. (2013) McClathyDC. http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/article24755410.html (accessed 24/8/2015).

7   This law was already discussed for some time. http://cmvro.ro/files/download/legislatie/legislation-en/law_258.pdf and the implementing norms: http://www.google.nl/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=7&ved=0CFlQFjAG&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vier-pfoten.ro%2Ffiles%2FRomania%2Fdocumente%2FStray_dog_management_APPROVED__NORMS_2_.doc&ei=zHKfVZ3ALev6ygP1uYzYDw&usg=AFQjCNFqR6tLzYljTBhV2S2H4g5E42emFA (accessed 27/8/2015).

8   Successes in other places have been reported as well. For example reported by Vier Pfoten: http://www.vier-pfoten.org/en/projects/stray-animals/sac-romania/first-municipality-in-romania-to-have-all-of-its-dogs-neutered-and-registered/ (accessed 27/8/2015) and in Oradea by SOS Dogs: http://eng.sosdogs.ro/about-us/p/2 (accessed 27/8/2015) reducing the numbers from 5,000 stray dogs in 2004 to 250 in 2011. Unfortunately, local authorities allegedly changed their policy in 2012. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+WQ+E-2012-007945+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN (accessed 27/8/2015).

9   www.footprintsofjoy.eu/en/category/home/ and https://www.youtube.com/user/savethedogs1 (accessed 27/8/2015).

10   In a meeting with World Animal Protection in October 2014 mayor Hansa of Cernavodă stated there used to be 3,000 stray dogs in the city. Due to the work of Save the Dogs this number has been reduced to 250-300 dogs and is under control.

11   World Animal Protection is supporting the education program of 2015 in the surrounding rural villages: Cochirleni, Mircea Voda, Cuza Voda, Castelu, Poarta Alba, Saligny, Satu Nou, Tortoman, Nisipari, Stefan cel Mare.

12   The operation for sterilising takes about 10 minutes for a male and 25 for a female dog.

13   Save the Dogs also recommends the Polyvalent DHHPi vaccine which protects dogs against diseases like distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, infection and parainfluenza infection.

14   People can get a fine of 5,000 to 10,000 Ron for not vaccinating their dogs against Rabies.

15   Vaccinations given by Save the Dogs are: Virbagen LR, Nobivac Rabies, DHPPI-LR, DHPPI-L.

16   Stray dogs cannot be registered. Save the Dogs used to put ear tags to all neutered dogs.

17   623 dogs were registered from Cernavodă on May 31, 2015. Save the Dogs would need more teams to speed up the process.

18   https://recs.rompetid.ro (accessed 27/8/2015). Information on the microchip includes: microchip number, date of microchipping, name of the dog, name of the owner with all data, date of rabies vaccination, date of deworming, official number of the dog booklet.

19   The English translation used: http://www.occupyforanimals.net/romania—laws-regarding-the-management-of-stray-dogs.html (accessed 27/8/2015). This law amended the national animal protection framework law 205/2004.

20   See for an overview of all relevant national legislation concerning dog population management in Romanian: http://cmvro.ro/legislatie/legislatie-caini/ (accessed 27/8/2015).

21   The third Save the Dogs shelter for dogs and cats is in Medgidia.

22   Orthopaedic problems result from car accidents, abuse and lack of (proper) food. Skin problems like mange, fleas and ticks are the result of a lack of preventive treatments and proper hygiene.

23   See the adoption statistics on the website: www.savethedogs.eu/category/adozioni/statistiche-adozioni/ (accessed 27/8/2015)

24   In 2014, 39 dogs have been rehomed locally against 6 in 2012.

25   1.048 dogs are supported this way. The sponsorship covers 1/3 of the real cost for the maintenance of a dog.

26   Red Panda and CHANCE C.A.R.E.S. in Bucharest.

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