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## MONITORING AND CONTROL OF DOG POPULATIONS

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Stray and feral dogs pose serious human health, animal health and welfare problems and have a socio-economic, environmental, political and religious impact in many countries. Human health, including the prevention of zoonotic diseases, notably rabies, is a priority. Dog population management is an integral part of rabies control programmes. Rabies is one of the important zoonotic viral diseases which infect human and animals. WHO recorded that, this disease kills more than 55, 000 human each year. OIE guidelines recognized the importance of controlling dog populations without causing unnecessary animal suffering.

Although killing is apparently a less expensive method of dog control, it brings about many animal welfare concerns, particularly in light of the widespread use of poisoned baits and shooting by personnel not enough trained. Experiences in developing countries have shown that removal of stray dogs by these methods has little or no impact on population densities, because losses are easily compensated by increased survival in the populations that remain. Therefore the control of the dog population should be within a programme including a group of actions.

To assess of the problem and monitoring of the dynamic of dog populations on a national level, is a key element in adopting a sustainable and successful plan for monitoring and control dog populations, which includes : Suitable and applicable legislation including OIE guidelines; elimination of garbage, and edible wastes of houses, abattoirs, and restaurants; reduce the introduction of new dog population, available facilities and logistics; awareness campaign; good training and clear SOPs; intersectoral collaboration between public and private veterinarians, municipalities, media, mosques and churches, human health authorities, social experts, etc..

Veterinary Services should play a lead role in preventing zoonotic diseases and ensuring animal welfare and should be involved in dog population control, coordinating their activities with other competent public institutions and agencies.

