Innovations and technologies:
Improving responsible management of pets

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Overview

1. ICAM background and guidance materials
2. Challenges in pet population management
   • Community conflicts
   • Selecting the best strategy
   • Monitoring and evaluation
3. Humane Community Development, an integrated approach to achieving best practice
International Companion Animal Management (ICAM) Coalition

- Formed in 2006
- **Discuss** current research, **share** experiences, **learn** from successes and failures
- **Guide** best practice in humane dog and cat management programs
- Supports implementation of OIE guidelines
Best practice recommendations

1. Form a multi-stakeholder committee
2. Use data to understand the problem
3. Address the cause, not the symptoms
4. There is no one-size-fits all solution
Challenge 1: Can we agree on the problem?

- Passionate disagreement
- Simple answers to complex issues
- Mistrust between NGOs and governments
- Lack of funding and dependence on external aid

Your shelter isn’t the answer, my sterilization campaign is!

We want to be self-sufficient, but what are you going to give us?

If you’re working with that group, we can’t trust you.

If you’re working with that group, we can’t trust you.
Challenge 2: Collecting and understanding useful data

- Impacts
- Indicators
- Method of measurement
- Tailored recommendations
Where are they coming from (and what should we do about it)?
Where are they coming from?

**Owned Dogs**

- abandoned
- lost
- owned
- roaming

**Dogs “on the street”**

**Dogs born on the street**
Challenge 3: What will really fix the problem?

• Usually several intervention “tools”:
  ▪ Sterilization/Contraception
  ▪ Sheltering and holding centres
  ▪ Legislation
  ▪ Education

• Depends on the **definition of the problem**
• Each community is unique
• **There is no “perfect model” intervention**
Humane Community Development
Humane Community Development

- Build consensus amongst stakeholders
- Focus common efforts using accessible data
- Create a sustainable, local management plan
Building A Humane Community Workshop

teachers
ICRC breeders
farmers rescuers
police veterans
disabled
elderly hunters
hoarders nurses
municipality
How have your ideas changed about the problems with dogs? (n=83)
Data capture: Community survey on knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and owned dog welfare

Device Magic: Offline data collection with cloud-based upload when wifi is available
Data storage: Wise Monkey cloud-based data collection system
Data analysis: EpilInfo visual dashboard
Roaming dog hotspot monitoring

OSMtracker smart phone app with layout specifically designed for dog surveys
Data storage and analysis: dog hotspot monitoring

Access database which parses data output from OSMtracker and provides previously designed queries for analysis.
Planning workshop: Data use in decision-making made simple

% of dogs tethered for either 12+ or 24 hours
Humane Community Development

- Community engaged with locally-tailored plan
- Local resources accessed
- Data collection technology for future decision-making
Local humane community strategies

- Humane values
- Collaboration, not blame
- Local creativity and energy
- Utilizing what is already there

Keywords:
- ownership
- Sterilization
- responsibility
- roaming
- care
- owned
- responsible
- roaming
- Sterilize
- re-home
- improvement
- Improve
- vaccination
- communications
- De-worming
- safety
- foster
- education
Post-planning: Stakeholder confidence that dog situation will improve \((n=108)\)
Early outcomes in 7 communities

- 900+ dogs treated/sterilized by local vets in upgraded facilities
- 1700 children engaged in education programs
- 270 participants from diverse gender, age and economic status
- Ongoing data collection

None of this performed by external groups
Humane Community Development with integrated data collection and analysis

✓ Can we agree on the problem?
✓ Can we decide what to do about it?
✓ Are we addressing the source of the problem as well as symptoms?
✓ Do we know if we are being effective?
Thank you

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