



## **Municipality of Sofia**

### Stray Dogs Program

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Deputy Mayor

April 10, 2014

Brussels



## Sofia Municipality



- 1.Средец
- 2.Красно Село
- 3.Възраждане
- 4.Оборище
- 5.Сердика
- 6.Подуяне
- 7.Сатина
- 8.Изгрев
- 9.Лозенец
- 10.Триадица
- 11.Красна Поляна
- 12.Илинден
- 13.Надежда
- 14.Искър
- 15.Младост
- 16.Студентски
- 17.Витоша
- 18.Овча Купел
- 19.Люлин
- 20.Връбница
- 21.Нови Искър
- 22.Кремиковци
- 23.Панчарево
- 24.Баня

6 299,3 km<sup>2</sup>  
5,3% from the territory  
of Bulgaria

3 towns  
34 villages

Population:  
1.3 million inhabitants

### ЛЕГЕНДА

- граница на столична община
- граница на район
- административен център на район
- кметство в района



## **Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality**

### **Roots of the stray dog problem**

- Insufficient control over the population of pet dogs and national registration system
- Insufficient control over the population of stray dogs and weak administrative capacity at municipal level
- Low awareness and education of the citizens on their responsibilities and abandonment of the new dog generations
- Absence of municipal electronic database for registration and identification by microchip pet and stray dogs
- Lack of overall strategy/program at national level and coordination between the national and local authorities



## Legal framework

### National Legislation

- Animal Protection Act – adopted from the Parliament 2007
- Law on Veterinary Services – amended in 2007

Municipal Stray Dogs Programme, 2007 – 2011

Municipal Stray Dogs Programme 2012 - 2016



## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Objectives

- Continuous and strict control over reproduction of stray dogs
- Reduction of the stray dogs' population by
  - 50% by the end of 2014
  - by 95% - by the end of 2016
- Establishment of sustainable practices for adoption of stray animals
- Raising awareness among citizens of the responsibilities and obligations in breeding pet dogs



## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Methods used

- Neutering, decontamination, vaccination, permanent marking and returning non-aggressive and healthy dogs to their locations
- Strengthening the control over the owners of pet dogs, incl. registration
- Close cooperation with the active NGOs in the following subjects:
  - Neutering of stray and pet dogs
  - Operation of shelters and veterinary clinics
  - Education of municipal staff
- Special attention on the “risk areas” with larger number of stray dogs – industrial zones, construction sites, suburbs and villages in the surrounding areas, areas inhabited by minorities (Roma)



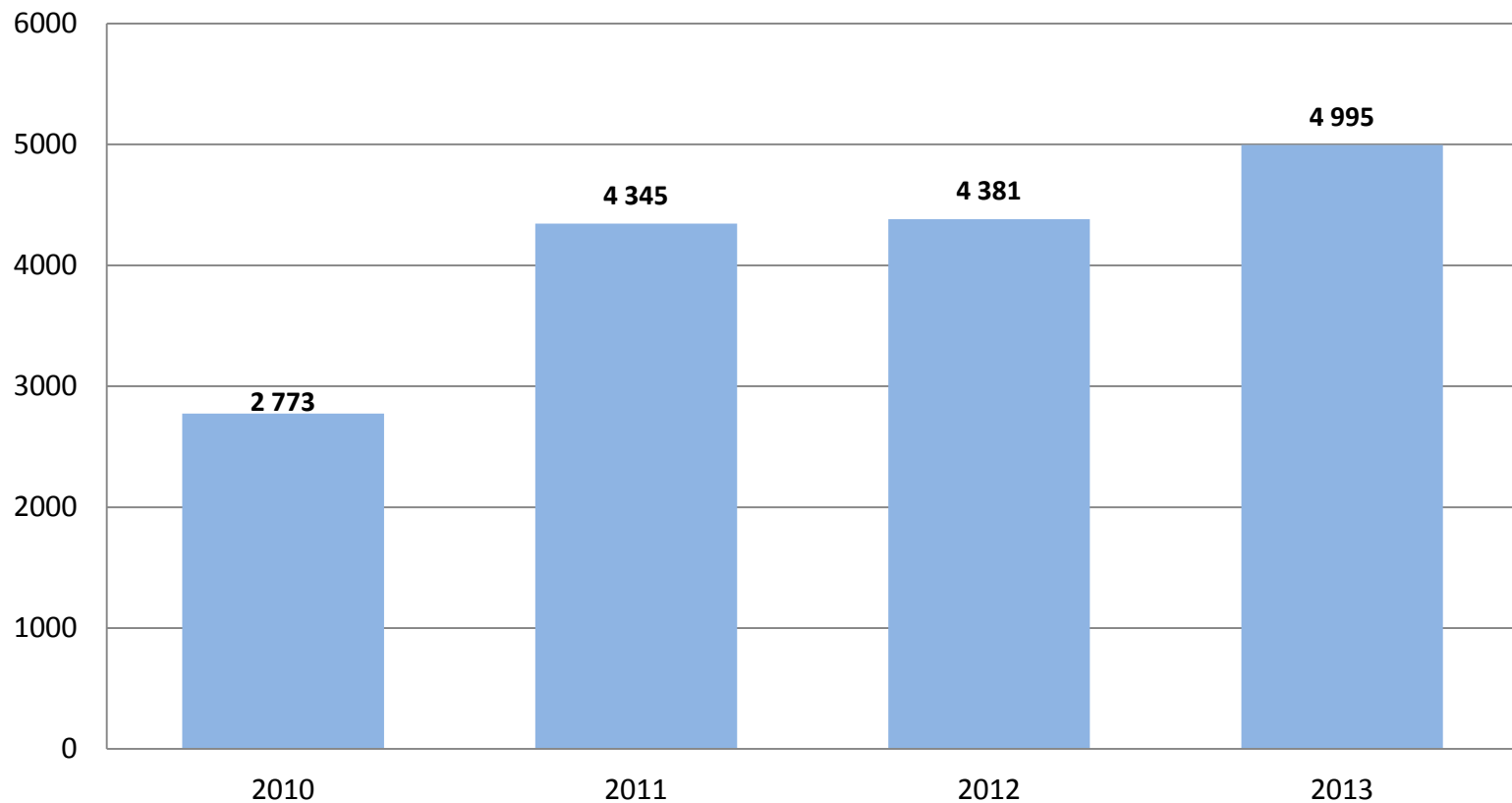
## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Methods used

- Education and information campaigns
  - The benefits of the neutering and promotions as: free of charge neutering, vaccination, marking and registration
  - “Tax relief” policy for the owners of sterilized dogs
  - Obligations for decontamination, vaccination, marking and registration of pet dogs
  - Motivate adoption of stray dogs



## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

Number of stray dogs neutered, vaccinated and registered in Sofia

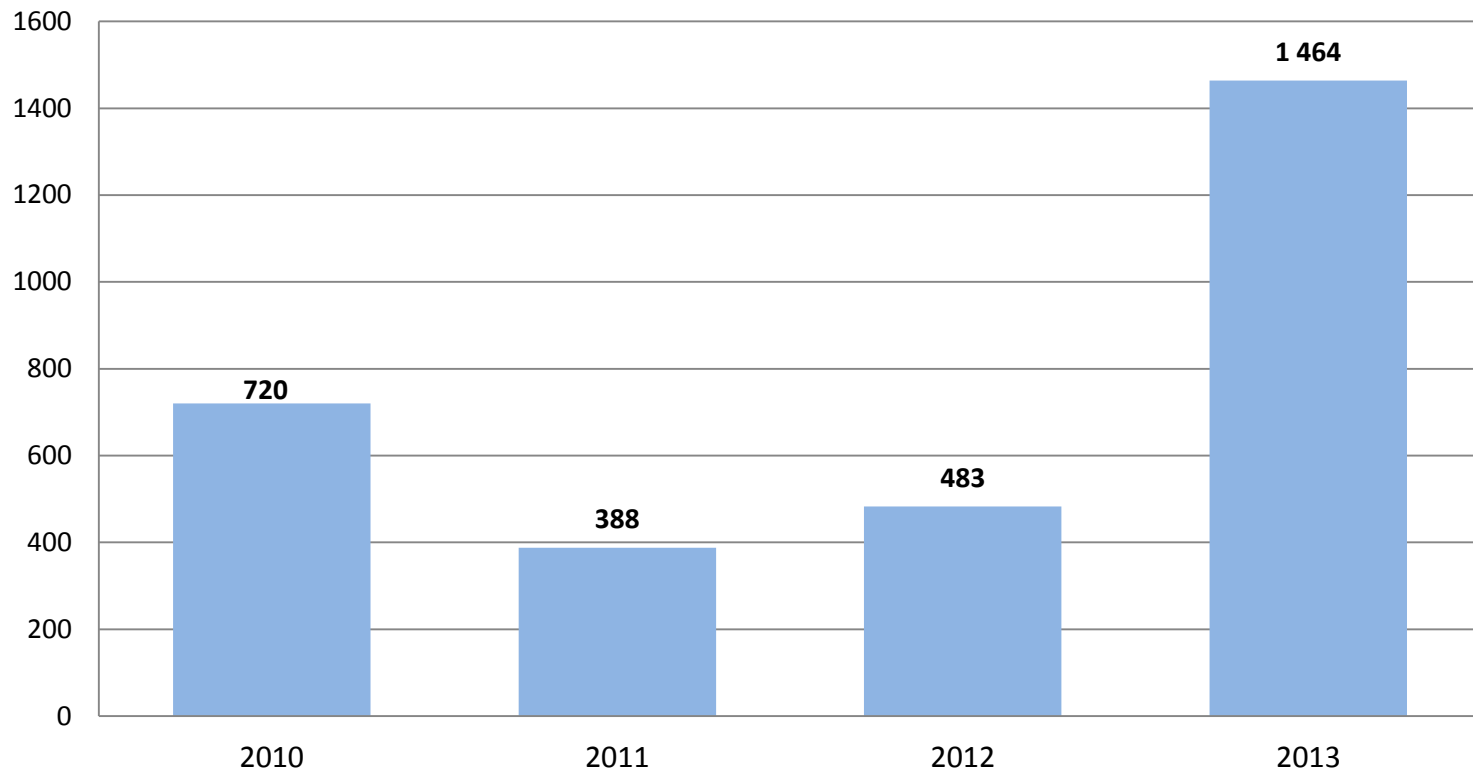






## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

Number of pet dogs neutered, incl. the risk areas





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

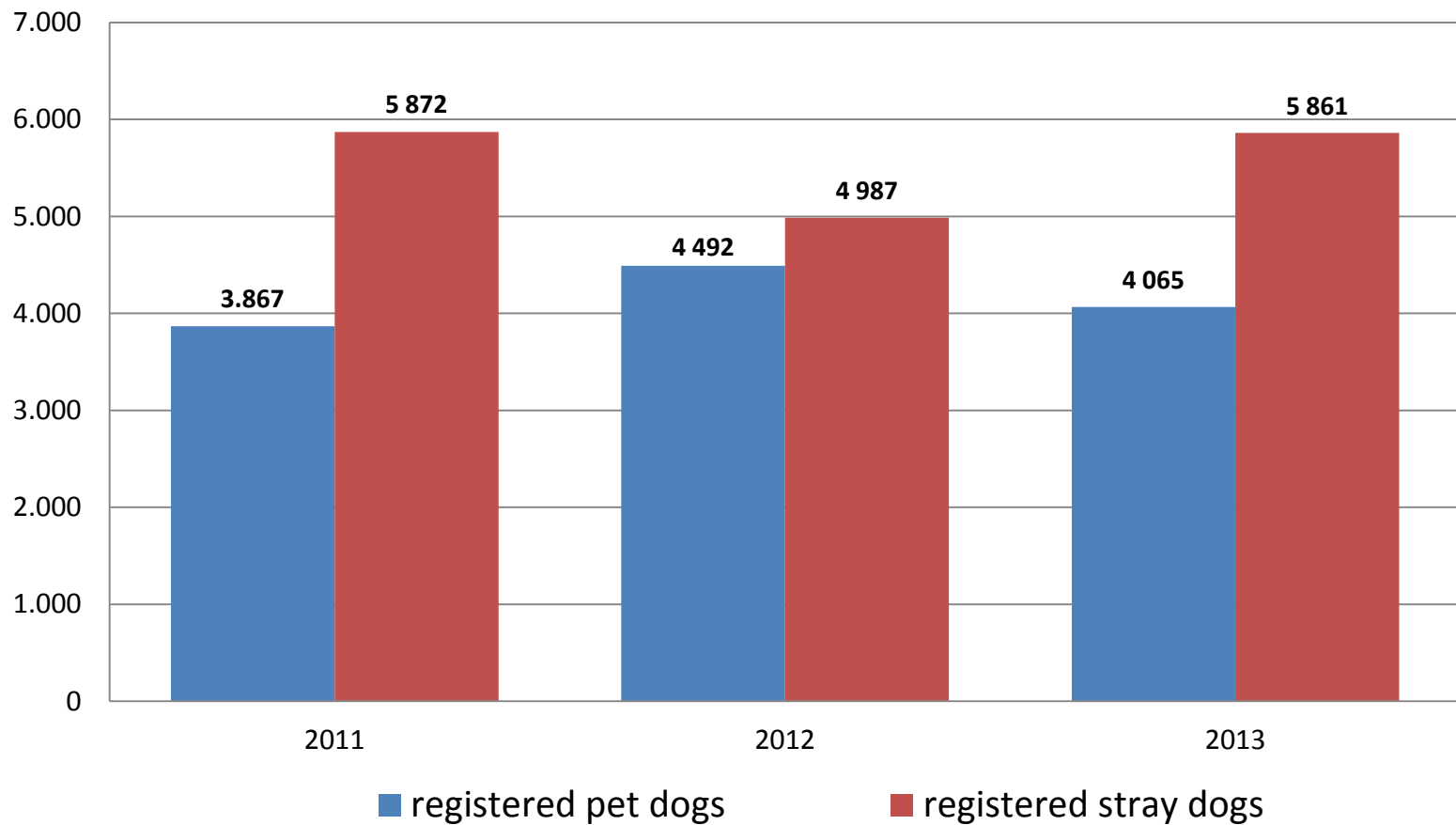
Increase of the number of the mobile teams for catching of stray dogs





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

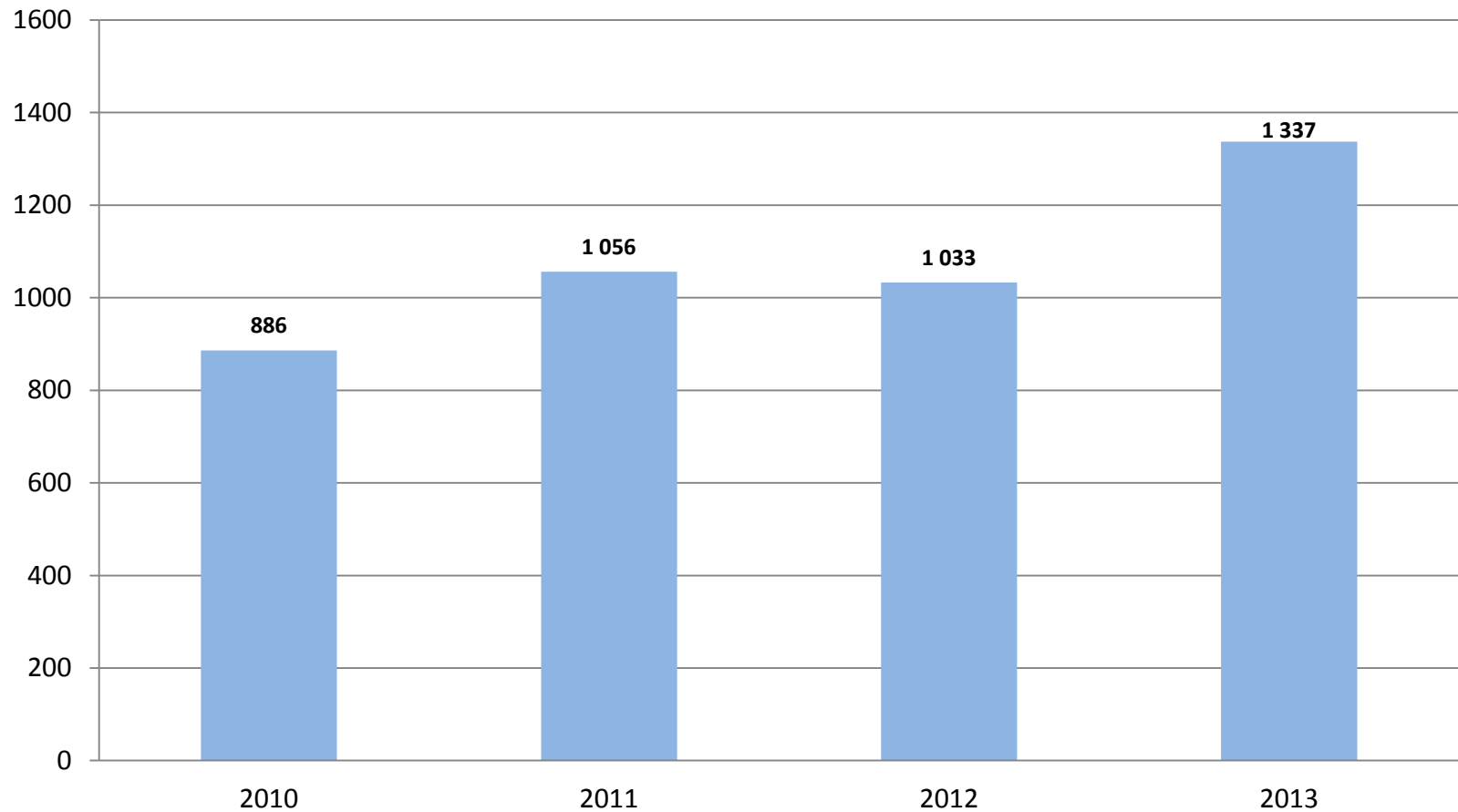
Number of registered dogs





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

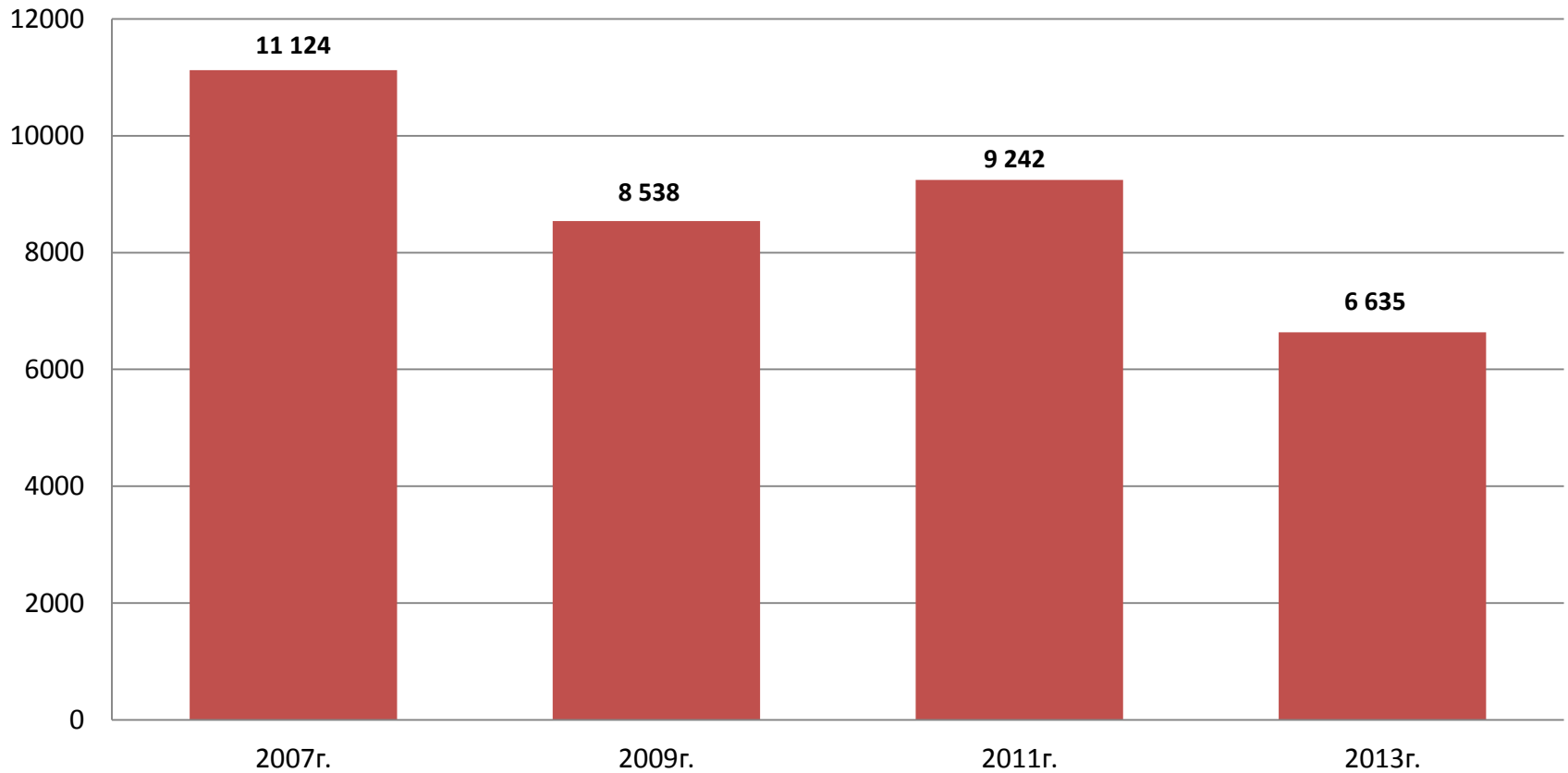
### Adoption of stray dogs





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

### Number of stray dogs 2007-2013





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

### Construction of open shelters

- Shelter “Dolni Bogrov”, operated in cooperation with Foundation “Animal Rescue Bulgaria”. Capacity – 500 dogs
- Shelter “Lozenez”, operated in cooperation with organization “Bulgarian-German help for dogs” , Capacity – 100 dogs
- Shelter “Gorni Bogrov” – 1 800 dogs. First phase 800 dogs was completed in 2012. Second phase for 1094 dogs will be completed in 2014
- Shelter “Seslavci” – 250 dogs



## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

Open shelter "Gorni Bogrov" –





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

### Construction of public veterinary clinics

- Public clinics in Sofia:
  - “Bankya” veterinary clinic operated in cooperation with “Four Paws”
  - “Seslavci” operated by the municipal company
- New projects in 2014:
  - Public clinic operated by “Animal Rescue Bulgaria”
  - Public clinic “Vrabnica” operated by the municipal company





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Results

Veterinary clinic in Bankya district – operated in cooperation with “Four Paws”;  
Minimum capacity 1200 neutered cats and dogs per year





## Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality Problems and Constrains

- Migration of dogs from neighbor municipalities
- Lack of financial resources in smaller municipalities
- The vet doctors do not fulfill their obligations for registration of the pet dogs in the national registration system – VETIS
- Lack of adequate information about the situation at national level
- Insufficiencies of the national legislation:
  - National program and strategy
  - Control on the vet doctors