Municipality of Sofia

Stray Dogs Program

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Deputy Mayor
April 10, 2014
Brussels
Sofia Municipality

6 299.3 km²
5.3% from the territory of Bulgaria

3 towns
34 villages

Population: 1.3 million inhabitants
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 week 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)
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Dogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality
Results

Number of pet dogs neutered, incl. the risk areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Neutered Dogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Year | Registered Pet Dogs | Registered Stray Dogs
---|---------------------|----------------------
2011 | 3,867               | 5,872                
2012 | 4,492               | 4,987                
2013 | 4,065               | 5,861                

Legend:
- Registered pet dogs
- Registered stray dogs
Adoption of stray dogs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stray Dogs Program of Sofia Municipality
Results

Number of stray dogs 2007-2013

- 2007: 11,124
- 2009: 8,538
- 2011: 9,242
- 2013: 6,635
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” – 1800 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 “Vrabanica” operated by the municipal company
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