


Estrategias de Gestión de Poblaciones Caninas

Una sola solución no sirve para todos

Paolo Dalla Villa
OIE Collaborating Centre on Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food safety and Animal Welfare
Santiago, Chile 16-17 May 2011



About us



- Istituto "G. Caporale" is a **public health Institution**, founded in 1941, belonging to the National Public Health Service
- The Institute is a **technical-scientific body** of the Ministry of Health and Regions
- About **400 people** are currently working at the Institute (veterinarians, biologists, chemists, statisticians, mathematicians, engineers, computer scientists, technicians, clerks, administrative staff)

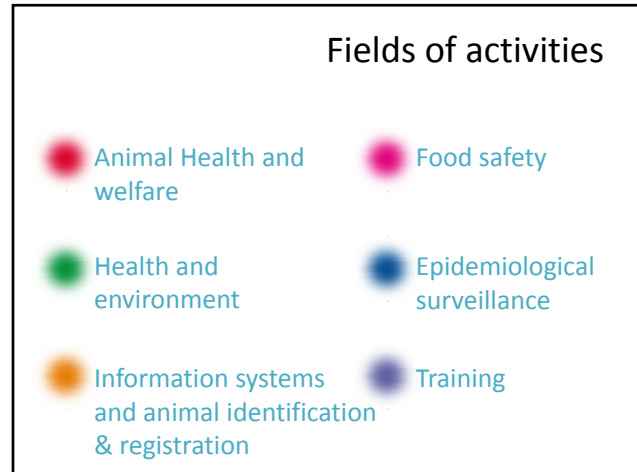
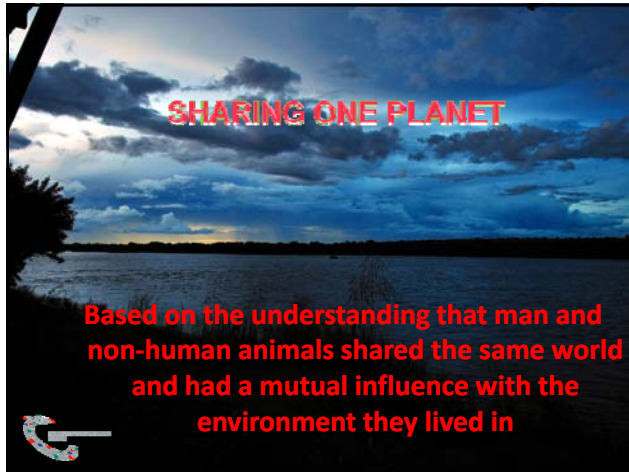
Where we are



Our mission



- **To protect human health**, satisfying the need of the **national Health System** and of citizens, for public health, expressed in food safety, animal health & welfare, prevention of zoonoses, support to food productions



OIE acknowledgements

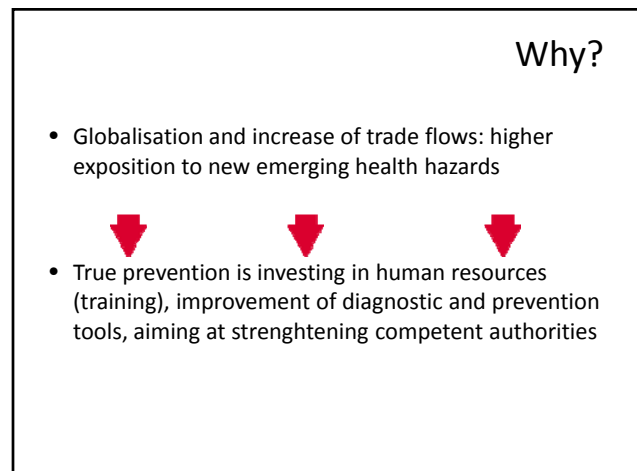
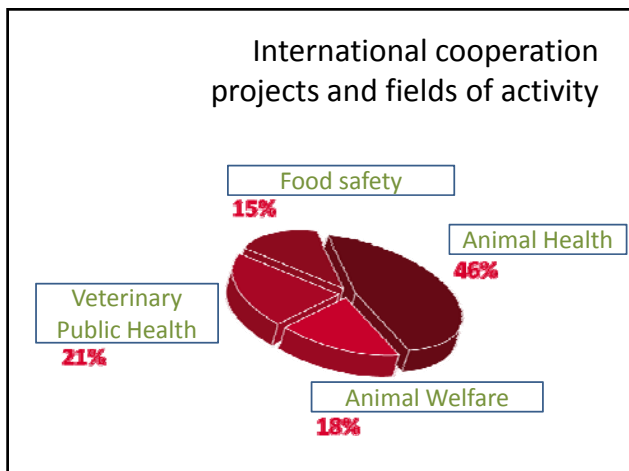
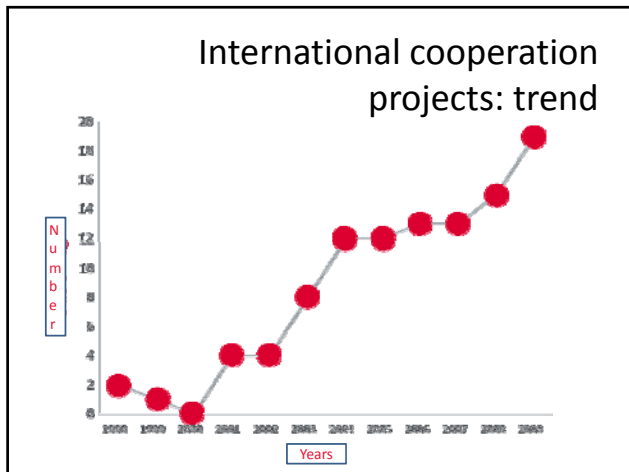
- As **OIE Collaborating Centre** for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and **Animal Welfare** we are asked:
 - to operate as a **centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination** of techniques;
 - to **propose or develop any procedure** which will facilitate **harmonisation** of international standards on animal welfare;
 - to **provide scientific and technical training** to personnel from the OIE MC;
 - to **coordinate scientific and technical studies** in collaboration with other laboratories or organisations;
 - to **publish and disseminate** any information which may be useful to OIE MC.



Research

The research is funded by the Italian Government, the European Union as well as other international sources:

- EU projects
- OIE twinning
- Collaboration agreements with others Institutions
- Research funds
- Institute direct engagement



International Centre for Veterinary Training and Information



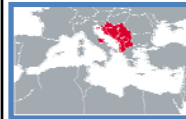
• Teramo



• Torre di Cerrano



From Balkan to Mediterranean countries: increase trust, facilitate access to markets



- Built thanks to a European project
- in partnership with Croazia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia Erzegovina, OIE
- with the purpose of working as a collector of ideas, a catalyst of information, a knowledge production centre



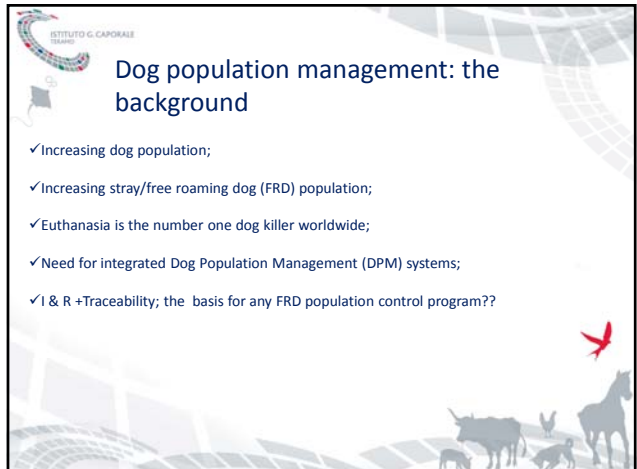
Which is our commitment on DPM?

- ✓ We are a public entity;
- ✓ We belong to the National Health System;
- ✓ We support the local municipalities and NGOs;
- ✓ We are a reference for the Italian Ministry of Health, on dog population management.



Dog population management: the background

- ✓ Increasing dog population;
- ✓ Increasing stray/free roaming dog (FRD) population;
- ✓ Euthanasia is the number one dog killer worldwide;
- ✓ Need for integrated Dog Population Management (DPM) systems;
- ✓ I & R + Traceability; the basis for any FRD population control program??



To fully evaluate the problem and collect relevant data, a questionnaire on dog population control was distributed to all OIE countries the survey comprised 17 questions, divided into two sections;

1.General information on the dog population
(presence, distribution and problems)

2.Stray dog control
(presence of official control programmes, different methods employed)

Data were analysed and the respondent countries were divided in 3 subgroups according to the **UN Human Development Index (HDI)**

This index measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development: a **long and healthy life**, **access to education** and a **decent standard of living** (UN, 2007)

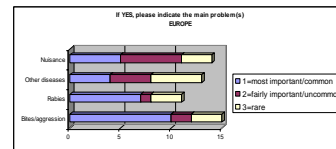
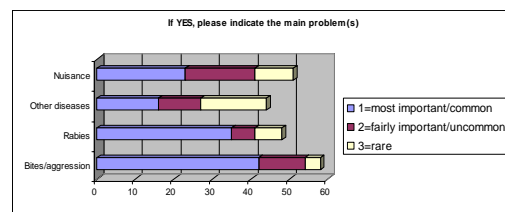
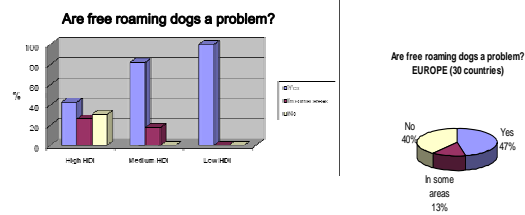
The Human Development Report divides countries into three different categories according to their HDI index:

42 **high** development countries ($HDI \geq 0.800$)

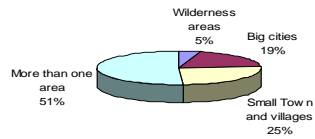
29 **medium** development countries ($0.800 > HDI \geq 0.500$)

6 **low** development countries ($HDI < 0.500$)

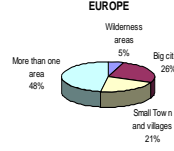
(4 responding countries were not classified in HDI)



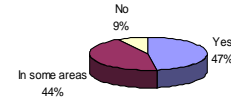
Are free roaming dogs a problem in the following areas?



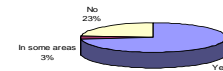
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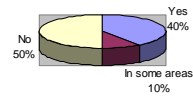
Is dog registration required by law ?



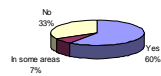
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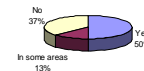
Is dog identification required by law ?



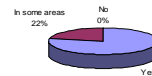
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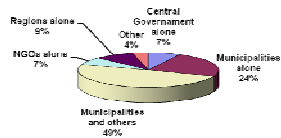
Are dog population control programs used?



Are dog population control programs used?
(14 EU countries that answered Yes to question "are free roaming dogs a problem?")



Who manages dog population control programs?



THE ITALIAN MODEL

- ✓ In Italy, until 1991, free-roaming dogs management was based on catching and killing (within 3 days) dogs unclaimed by the owners;
- ✓ Rabies was eradicated and growing public concerns about free-roaming dogs and cats welfare led to the promulgation of the national Law 281/1991 on "companion animals protection";
- ✓ Since then euthanasia is no more accepted as a tool for free-roaming dog and cat population control (except when "incurably sick" or "proven to be dangerous").

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- ✓ Italian public opinion supports this "no-kill" approach to free-roaming dog population control

- ✓ This is corroborated by the results of a telephone survey in the Teramo province (Slater et al. 2008):

- Only 2% of the respondents consider euthanasia as an acceptable tool for free-roaming dog population control
- Other control methods should be considered (98% of respondents)

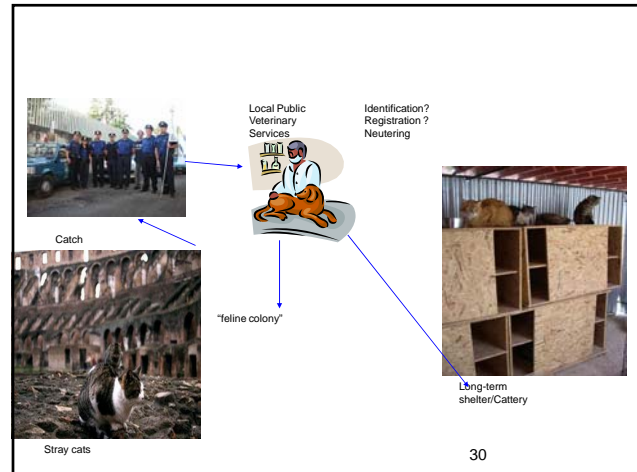
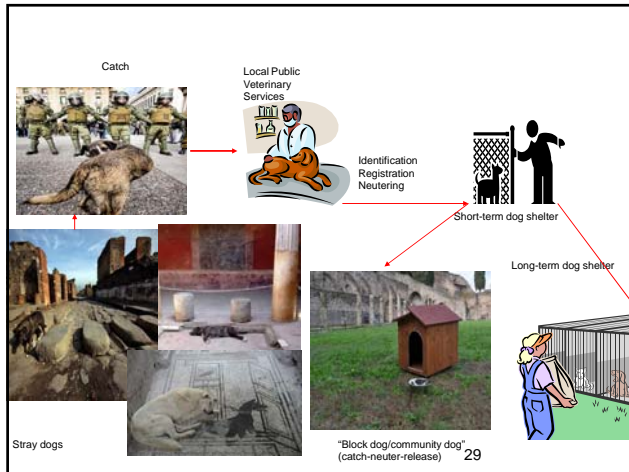
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- ✓ Currently, in Italy free roaming dogs and cats (either stray or unattended animals) are managed by the local CAS (Municipalities and Public Veterinary Services).

- ✓ This laws stipulate that canine and feline population control should be pursued through:

- the electronic identification and registration of dogs/cats , to discourage animal abandonment;
- the capture and sterilisation of unwanted dogs/cats;
- the community engagement trough public education & information programs.

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The best possible level of welfare to sheltered dogs should be provided according to the 'five freedoms', widely recognised as baseline criteria to guarantee physical health, freedom from disease and pain and distress and the provision of behavioural and environmental needs for the animals .

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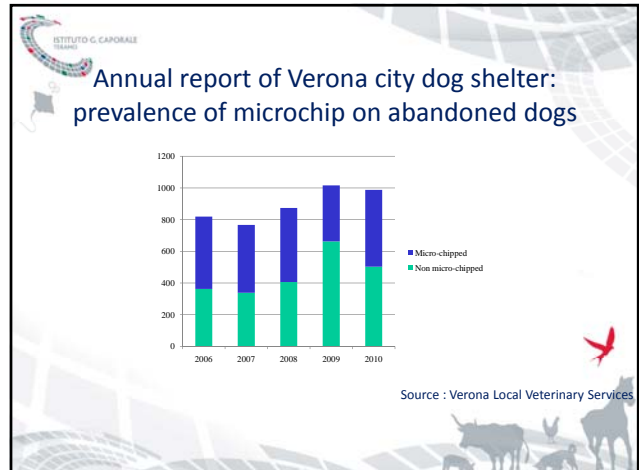
- ✓ Some regional laws (i.e. Abruzzo, Puglia & Campania region) formally recognises the so called 'block dog/community dog' as a category of unwanted free roaming dog.
- ✓ They are not dangerous to people or other animals and are released by Local Veterinary Services back to the place where they were collected on the request of the competent municipality.

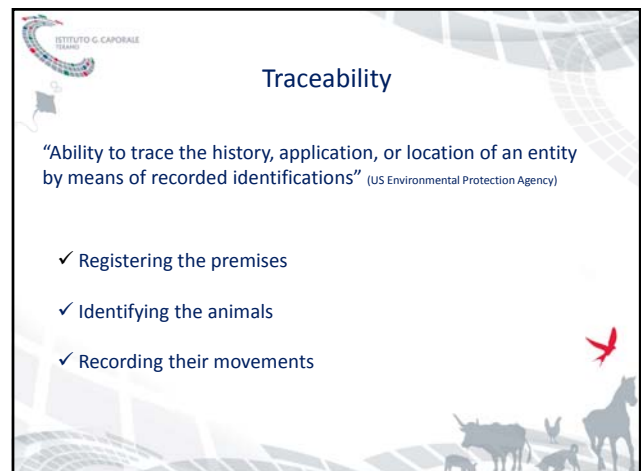
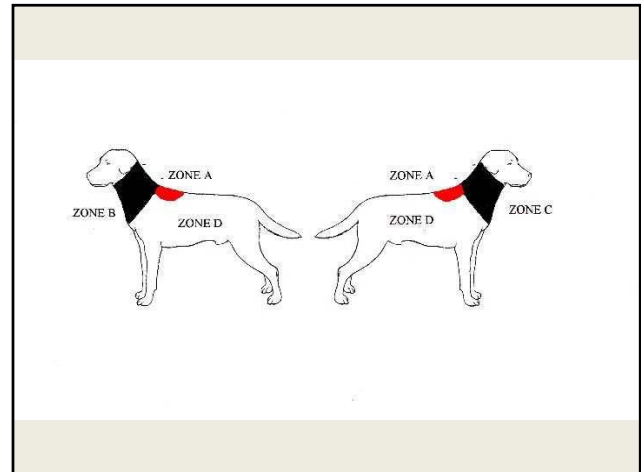
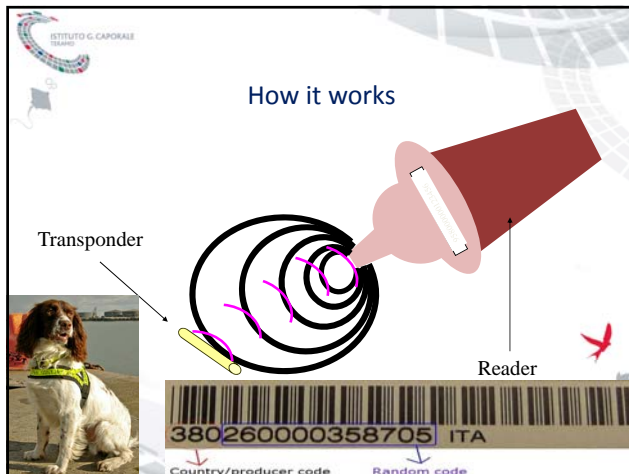
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Obstacles to achieve the objectives at national level;

- ✓ Progressive shortage of funding;
- ✓ High costs of shelters, no animal welfare standards & indicators, low adoption rate;
- ✓ Poor legislation enforcement (mainly at municipal level);
- ✓ Insufficient implementation of the canine register, no cat register in place;
- ✓ Lack of public awareness about companion animal needs, marketing driven acquisition;
- ✓ Irresponsible ownership, positive attitude VS negative behaviour;
- ✓ Very few educational programs, long term results;
- ✓ Lack of "political" will by local administrators;
- ✓ Poor public/private vets integration;
- ✓ NGOs fragmented strategies, overlapping and conflicts.

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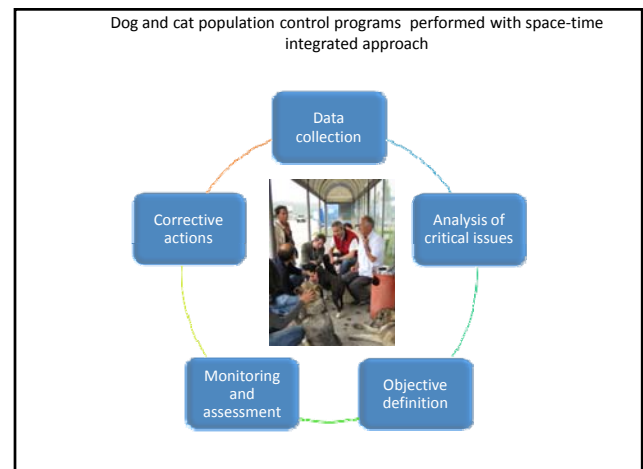
Application of epidemiology principles to FRD population control

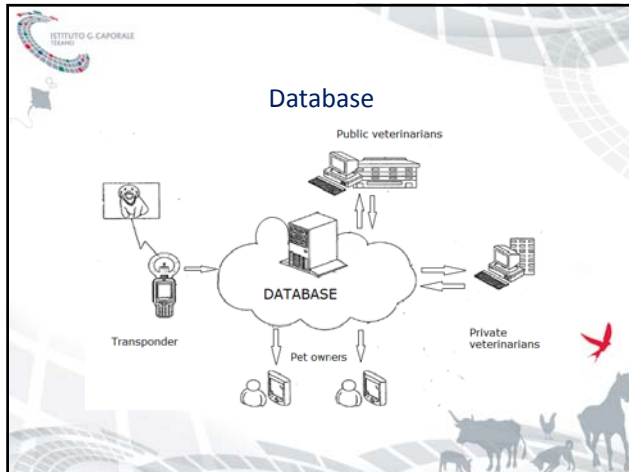
- 1) Determination of the origin of the FRD;
- 2) Investigation and control of FRD even in case its cause is unknown or poorly understood;
- 3) Acquisition of information on ecology and dynamics of FRD;
- 4) Planning and monitoring of FRD control programs;
- 5) Assessment of the economic effects of FRD control programs and cost/benefits analysis of alternative control programs.

L'Aquila 2009

Application of OIE standards on DPM

- During the earthquake in 2009
- Integrated system for immediate and punctual knowledge of canine and feline population
- For the first time, public and private medicine, NGOs, other institutional bodies acted in a coordinated framework, acknowledging roles and responsibilities in non epidemic emergency management





Our take home message

- Companion Animal PM is necessary apart from stray dog/cat problems
- Animal identification and registration are crucial tools
- Dynamic and updated I & D are necessary from a technical and scientific perspective (DP are dynamic)
- We must base all plans and actions on reliable data
- I & D are a long-term investment TOGETHER

Expert Meeting on
Dog Population Management

Banna, Italy, 15-19 March 2011
Dog-Population-Management@fao.org



- There is an increasing acceptance that **animal suffering is not a necessary cost** to achieve benefits for people.
- Need to **ensure the welfare of animals while reducing the health and safety risks that dogs may present to people**. To achieve this, it is necessary to address **the whole dog population** and not only stray animals.

The challenge of dog population management for public health and animal welfare

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

- To **identify dog population management options** and to give recommendations for successful implementation of relevant **international standards and best practices**, with special emphasis on animal welfare and health.
- To obtain a **transparent wide global perspective** on this issue from countries really dealing with it



Announcing an Electronic Consultation on:

Dog population management options with special emphasis on animal welfare and health

13 September – 8 October 2010
Call for documents and invitation

The main objective of this e-consultation is to identify dog population management options with special emphasis on animal welfare and health. It will provide an opportunity for researchers, development workers, national and local authorities and the international community at large with an interest in dog population management, to share their knowledge and experiences.

download the call and subscription form

www.fao.org/ag/animalwelfare.html

www.fao.org/ag/animalwelfare.html

- The meeting was preceded by an e-consultation that described the current status of dog population management worldwide and analyzed the reasons for the **successes or failures** in applying **different practices**.

EXPERT MEETING MANAGEMENT



Photos by Adriano Saldanha

- 25 experts and resource people from different disciplines and organizations across the globe;
- to address the challenges of dog population management, both domestic and stray, in an holistic approach.
- academia, government authorities, non-governmental bodies, public health institutions, and intergovernmental organizations were represented.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED THAT

- In order to attain the highest standards and **sustainability of dog population management** we need a multifaceted and all inclusive approach that recognizes societal needs and new global trends.
- Dog population management needs to be **integrated** into a **comprehensive public health global strategy**.
- It is necessary to make the **new scientific achievements** as well the **latest technological tools** available to those who are dealing with this complex issue.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Dog population management should be approached as a **multifactorial issue** that fits under the umbrella concept of "One Health."
- As such, DPM strategies should seek a **balance between animal welfare and human health** and be based on available scientific evidence.
- **Building capacity** in this area involves an inclusive approach that engages **multiple stakeholders** to assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive and sustainable DPM strategy.
- **Continuous monitoring** and **outcomes evaluation** should be built into all DPM programs and activities.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE MEETING

- Strong commitment to advance dog population management by building a **robust and effective network**, sharing information and lessons learned, developing good practices and closely **engaging communities that are the ultimate beneficiaries**.
- Development of a **permanent international technical forum** to address specific dog population management issues and needs, coordinated by FAO and open to all relevant actors.



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