



2nd International Conference on Dog Population Management

Report by Rod Jouppi, AWWC

On March 2 – 5, 2015, I attended the **2nd International Conference on Dog Population Management** in Istanbul, Turkey hosted by ICAM (International Companion Animal Management Coalition). I was there as a representative of the WSAVA's Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee (AWWC). Tess Kommendal (AWWC) helped organize the conference but was unable to attend. This type of conference addresses this very important animal welfare issue of overpopulation of companion animals. Society has a duty to ensure that we always take proper regard of welfare issues in dealing with overpopulation. This population of animals has suffered tremendously when zoonotic disease is at work and also when One Health issues are being resolved by inadequate and inhumane methods. Science and expertise are required to prevent and treat this issue and conferences such as this bring related organizations to the table to help both awareness and the establishment of best practices in resolving this immense societal problem. Humane, effective and sustainable dog population management (DPM) is a challenge worldwide. Dogs play an important role as companion and work animals but are also a major source of concern for the transmission of rabies and other zoonoses and for attacks on people and livestock.

The ICAM coalition's mission statement is to support the development and use of humane and effective companion animal population management worldwide. The ICAM goals are to share ideas and data; to discuss issues relevant to population management and welfare; to agree definitions and hence improve understanding and to provide guidance as a collegial and cohesive group.

The main objective for the 2nd conference was to bring the public sector together with specialists in animal welfare, animal health and education, ecologists, economists and social scientists. The conference theme was thus "Inter-sectoral collaboration, innovation and evidence-based solutions for dog population management".

Specific aims of the conference:

- * To facilitate discussions and sharing of information on DPM among stakeholders;
- * To promote awareness of novel approaches to DPM
- * To encourage inter-sectoral collaboration, innovation and policy development
- * To provide evidence-based information for effective, humane DPM;
- * To promote animal and human health and wellbeing by reducing the incidence of zoonoses

and the environmental impacts associated with dog population control.

The main outcomes of the conference:

- * increased awareness of innovative approaches for countries and research groups;
- * dissemination of the results of research and practical applications between scientists, stakeholders and policy makers;
- * enhanced prospects of decreasing the economic burden of rabies and other zoonoses through the use of evidence-based methodologies;
- * demonstration of the benefits of the One Health approach to animal, human and environmental welfare.

Focus of Conference:

Keynote lectures

Professor James Serpell (University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, USA) - The importance and diversity of the human-dog relationship

Dr Linda Rhodes (Alliance for Contraception in cats and dogs) - An overview of non-surgical sterilisation

Theme 1: Education and community engagement

1. Rabies and the rural Thai community - combating myths through education (Lindsay Hartley-Backhouse, Lanta Animal Welfare, Thailand)
2. Public perceptions on the dog overpopulation problem in the UK including an investigation into willingness to pay for humane management (Christina Sietou, University of Kent, UK)
3. Five key messages for the prevention of dog bite material (Melania Gamboa, World Animal Protection, Costa Rica)
4. Development of integrated and humane management solutions to diminish negative effects of free-roaming dogs on a Chilean Patagonian community (Elena Garde, The Global Alliance of Animal and People, Chile)
5. Assessment of free-roaming dog health and evaluation of knowledge, attitude and practice of dog owners to canine rabies in Chitwan District, Nepal (Giovanna Massei, APHA, UK)
6. Community trust and engagement are necessary for resilience in a rabies outbreak (Kati Loeffler, IFAW, USA)
7. Dogs are a development issue: The social impacts of roaming and poorly managed dogs on human communities (Kate Atema, IFAW, USA)
8. A people centered approach to dog population management (Rebecca Brimley, IFAW, USA)

Theme 2: Population dynamics

9. Dog population management in Vietnam (Van Dang, Vietnam National rabies consultant, Vietnam)
10. Dynamics of an owned, free-roaming dog population: implications for population management (Daryyn Knobel, University of Pretoria, South Africa)
11. Sterilising more than 80% of female dog population: is it enough to keep the population under control? (Ganga de Silva, Blue Paw Trust, Sri Lanka)
12. Are DPM programmes targeting the source of FRDs? A 13-years retrospective study (Stefano Mesouri, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise, Italy)
13. Dog Population Management in Jamshedpur, India: a model for improving welfare and achieving impact through human behavior change (Joy Lee, Humane Society International, UK)
14. Population size estimates for street dogs: the good, the bad and the shortcuts (John Boone, Humane Society International, USA)
15. Abundance of pet dogs in Rawalpindi district of Pakistan (Syed Israr Shar, Pakistan)
16. Free-roaming domestic dog demography in rural villages near Serengeti National Park, Tanzania (Anna Czupryna, University of Illinois, USA)
17. Community regulation of the ecology of four owned, free-roaming dog populations (Hanna Lentz, IFAW, USA)
18. Comprehensive holistic approach to dog population management in Asia Pacific (Dananjaya Karunaratna, World Animal Protection, Thailand)

Theme 3: Monitoring DPM programmes

19. Decreasing the relinquishment of owned dogs by implementing behavior modification therapy (Dunja Kovac, FDF- Farm Development Foundation, Serbia)
20. Tracking dogs in a free living environment with respect to vaccination monitoring (Daniel Stewart, KZN Rabies Project, South Africa)
21. Recommendations for using behavioural indicators to assess animal welfare impact of dog population management interventions (Louisa Tasker, Independent Animal Welfare Consultant, UK)
22. Towards a scientific-based assessment of dogs' welfare in shelters (Shanis Barnard, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise, Italy)
23. Development of a robust canine welfare assessment for dogs in trap-neuter-return programmes (Heather Bacon, University of Edinburgh, UK)

Theme 4: Government collaboration

24. Characterization and reproductive control program of pet population in São Paulo, Brazil (Rita Garcia, Federal University of Paraná, Brazil)
25. Human and animal health collaboration in rabies control in the Philippines (Raffy Deray,

Department of Health, Philippines)

26. Mass dog vaccination (MDV) and One Health implementation for rabies control in Bangladesh (Aung Swi Prue Marma, Bandarban District Hospital, Bangladesh)

27. Implementing rabies control strategy in a devolved government, adoption of One Health approach (Brighton Marienga, State Veterinary Office, Nairobi, Kenya)

28. OIE initiatives to improve stray dog population control, an example from Europe (Nadège Leboucq, OIE)

Breakout session

1. Are we making a difference? Help us to Help You

This session will be a deep dive into the new guidance from ICAM on how to evaluate whether our work is making any difference.

The ICAM Humane Dog Population Management Guidance has good ingredients but could do with a refresh. This session is your opportunity to tell ICAM if you use the guidance, how you use it and what would be the most helpful ways we could innovate to help you better.

I was able to lead a group and we presented to the audience our thoughts on what was needed in modernizing the ICAM Humane Dog Population Management Guidance in order to improve usage and value of the document

The ICAM coalition's organizers for this conference as follows:

International Federation of Animal Welfare (IFAW):

Kate Atema, Chair

Rebecca Brimley

Eleanor Milano

Humane Societies International (HSI):

Andrew Rowan

Kelly O'Meara

Joy Lee

World Animal Protection (WAP)

Beryl Mutoonono-Watkiss

Pankaj KC

Ellie Paravanni

Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC):

Deepa Balaram

ICAM COALITION:

Dr Elly Hiby

RSPCA INTERNATIONAL:

Alexandra Hammond-Seaman

WSAVA:

Tess Kommedal

Rod Jouppi

Suzanne Rogers (Learning About Animals) was the key co-ordinator for the conference working on behalf of ICAM