

Roadmap strays

A combination of a number of essential factors are the key to the success in reducing the growths of the population of stray animals.

Hereunder you will find some steps that need be taken. When one of the steps is missed there is no chance on success.

The first thing is that one should realize that the execution of a CNR campaign does not mean that strays will not be in the streets anymore. It is actually the opposite, putting back and leaving the neutralized animals on the streets is perhaps the most important part of the plan.

The basis of the principle lies in the presence of sources. When the animals have a source of food, they will use it. Once you remove an animal out of the area of the source, there will enter a new, un-neutered, in return. This is crucial for the success of project!

The removal of animals, and killing of animals living on the streets is always counterproductive. Dogs live in packs, and the disappearance of a dog from group of animals, one of the bitches will do everything to make the group strong again, by producing offspring.

Where there are sources there will always be animals. But as long as you can keep the amount under control, and sources are not being extended, the number of stray animals will remain stable. Stray dogs and cats generally have a much lower life expectancy compared to animals with an owner, because the dangers are bigger and there is a lack in basic necessities that are not provided.

Act by keeping the future in mind, look forward and be constructive. The aim for a structural solution, you will have to let go your short term view. Do not look at one dog that you see passing by, but try to keep a higher goal in mind! Invest in the future of all animals, and not in the future of 1, 2 or 3 animals!

The SDB will help wherever possible, but SDB is not the one to solve all problems. The help of the Foundation is focused on the future. Cooperation within the local stakeholders is vital. Look at the SDB as oil, a small part in a big machine. The SDB is willing to attend meetings and support a campaign. The municipality, local organization and vet facilitates!

If you decide to organize a sterilization campaign, what steps are there to be taken?

1. Cooperation with local government
 - a. The mayor and the officials concerned (utility company) should be positively involved. They are an indispensable party.
 - b. Message to government: Stop the killing of animals, implementation of the law.
 - c. It should be agreed and officially recorded that sterilized animals are not going to be destroyed or removed. When this happens the project can be considered as failed, criminal charges will be filed and the costs of the project will be send to the municipality.
 - d. Message 2: The town sponsors the local veterinarians to perform sterilizations after the project
 - e. Message 3: Keep investing, with 1 time only you do not achieve the desired results
2. Cooperation with local veterinarians
 - a. The local vets are very important, they are the ones to take over the task
 - b. Local veterinarians can join the SDB in a campaign and learn on the job
 - c. Come to an agreement with the vets that these valuable lessons can be paid back by sterilizing at least 1 or 2 animals per week for free

3. Approval by the local government for activities foreign doctors

In order to avoid tensions, the local government should authorize the fact that vets from outside Bosnia perform their work. The doctors that join the SDB are doing this all on a voluntary basis. Cherish it and ensure a stable environment without stress and uncertainty. There should be a safe and stable workplace.

4. PR related preparation

a. Informational Stands

Organize some time (2 months) before a sterilization project information stands in the centre or busy location of the city. Make sure people know what we do and why. Explain why dogs are sterilized and that they can be recognized by ear tags or tips being cut.

b. Petition

During an information stand get as much signatures against the killing of dogs and the humane approach of reducing the number of dogs as possible. You can also consider to ask for contributions from members of your association

c. Flyers and Posters

Just before the campaign (1 week) you start handing out flyers to inform people. In addition, put up posters with info in the city poster

5. Local organization

a. Criminal charges

Ensure that all violations are recorded. Take pictures of animals that have been slain or beaten. File a report and record what you saw and where it was. Without proof you are nowhere and you can not convince people of the need.

b. Information, website, members

When you act in the name of a foundation, then build yourself a website. Give at least enough information to members and volunteers.

c. Put your org on the map

Are you familiar in your own region. Do people know where and how to find you?

d. Spokes person/single point of contact

The local animal welfare organization is the contact for the municipality when there are problems with animals. Sick or injured animals should be brought to the vet for euthanasia or assistance.

Make sure you are reachable for people in the town! This is a good basis for cooperation.

6. Educational program

Along with a sterilization campaign, or better yet, two weeks before, you organize an educational program. The local schools have to be visited, children are explained how to deal with animals and what is the solution for the reduction of stray animals. Ask for our comprehensive package!

7. Location for the project

A lot has to be arranged for a project, especially in the medical field. But in any case make sure that there is a large site with electricity, water and toilet. There is a large room with tables for sterilizations and a space for recovery.

It does not have to be a luxurious operating room, but only basics have to be present.