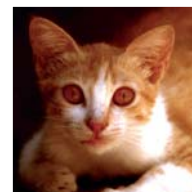


CHAPTER 1

COMPANION ANIMALS

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1 INTRODUCTION



Companion animals (restricted to cats and dogs for the purposes of this manual) are common throughout the world and in many countries are revered for their positive effect on the physical and mental health of their human owners. Companion animals are also used for work, such as hunting, herding, searching and guarding.

The relationship between dogs and humans dates back at least 14,000 years ago with the domestic dog ancestor the wolf. The opportunity to gain food from refuse and offered scraps brought the wolf closer to human settlements, where they may have provided an effective warning system. From this they graduated to a hunting partner and companion animal. Thus began the domestication of the dog, which has involved significant changes in behaviour and physical attributes through many thousands of years of selective breeding.

The cat was domesticated by man only 6,000 years ago, primarily for their role in rodent control. Many cats still fulfil this important role, but their position as a true companion animal is also very widespread. However, their breeding has been far less controlled by man, so the modern companion cat is still very similar to its African wild cat ancestor.

Unfortunately, of the 600 million dogs in the world around 80% are estimated to be stray and a similar percentage for cats. The problems arising from strays are significant, with human health issues such as rabies and injuries from bites being two of the more serious issues. There are also often serious welfare issues for the strays involved; hunger, cold, disease and fear from aggressive interactions with both humans and other animals. For these reasons, and because strays are very visible to the human populace, the stray companion animal population is often a prominent concern for both governments and animal welfare groups.

This chapter discusses the various subjects essential for understanding stray animal populations, in particular the true sources of the current stray animals. From this understanding, effective strategies for stray animal population management can hopefully be drawn.

2 BACKGROUND TO STRAY ANIMAL ISSUES

a) What is a 'Stray'?

'Stray' is a general term given to any domestic animal found roaming freely without human supervision. Strays depend on humans for most of their essential resources, such as food, although this may be found indirectly from rubbish discarded by humans. Because of this dependence on humans, stray animals are found roaming within and around human settlements.

'Community animals' are a type of stray animal that is cared for and provisioned by a particular community, but is still allowed to roam freely.

Animals that live and breed successfully independent of human society are termed '**feral**' and are usually found outside, or on the fringes of human settlements.

These definitions of the different types of stray animals are to be used as guidelines, as many animals can fall in between two definitions.

b) Why are Strays a Problem?

Stray animals can become a problem for many reasons: they carry diseases that can be passed to humans and other animals (such as rabies), they can cause road accidents, harass citizens, damage property and pollute the environment.

There are also many welfare concerns for the stray animals themselves: disease, hunger, aggression between animals and persecution by humans in the form of cruelty, abuse and inhumane methods of killing.

c) Where Do Strays Come From?

When tackling the issue of stray animals, it is vital that we consider where these animals are coming from and address these sources. Irresponsible animal ownership, uncontrolled breeding and the carrying capacity of the environment must all be considered.

Irresponsible Animal Ownership

- Some owners allow their animals to roam unsupervised. These animals then become part of the stray population and cause the same problems as un-owned stray animals.
- Owners may also abandon their animals in the streets when they no longer want them. This can be a common fate for unwanted litters of puppies.

Uncontrolled Breeding

- Owned animals may be allowed to breed uncontrollably, leading to the problem of abandonment or over-capacity of re-homing centres.
- Breeding within the stray population can produce the next generation of stray animals. However, the survival rate of animals born stray may be low.
- Puppy farms and breeders can lead to a surplus of companion animals. This problem is made worse if the conditions in which the animals are raised are poor, as the puppies and kittens may be sick and poorly socialised, making them unsuitable pets and more likely to be abandoned.

Carrying Capacity

- Carrying capacity refers to the number of animals that a particular environment can sustain. The size of the carrying capacity is dependent upon the availability of the resources essential to those animals, such as food, water, shelter and a suitable climate.
- In most cases, it is the availability of food that will be the limiting factor in the size of the carrying capacity.
- Attitudes towards stray animals can override the impact that the carrying capacity has on the population size when tolerance for the presence of stray animals is very low.

The 'end product' of all these sources is the current stray population. These animals must be considered, but without also addressing the sources, any intervention on the current stray population will fail to impact the problem in the long term.

STRAY ANIMAL CONTROL STRATEGIES

3

An effective, long-term stray control programme will need to address three main areas: the source of the stray animals, the carrying capacity of the environment and the current stray population.

a) Addressing the Source of Stray Animals

Addressing where stray animals come from is the most important consideration to reduce the number of stray animals in the long term. There are three main ways that this can be done:

legislation, education and sterilisation.





“OUR CHALLENGE FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS IS TO CHANGE FUNDAMENTALLY THE THINKING OF GOVERNMENTS IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO STRAY ANIMAL CONTROL. WE NEED TO HELP THEM SEE THAT RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP, ACHIEVED THROUGH LEGISLATION AND EDUCATION, IS INSTRUMENTAL IN REDUCING THE CYCLE OF INCREASING STRAY ANIMAL POPULATIONS.”

~ Trevor Wheeler, Middle East Projects Director, WSPA

Legislation

Legislation includes both national or primary laws that set out the main principles of stray control and animal protection, and by-laws that provide detail and allow for local differences. Of course, without enforcement, legislation is useless. Hence all legislation should be followed up with both national and local enforcement.

- Ideally, legislation should require that all owned animals are registered and identified. This enables lost animals to be reunited with their owners and also makes it possible for owners that persistently act irresponsibly to be fined. Registration can also be used to encourage neutering of owned animals by offering free or reduced registration of neutered animals.
- Legislation should require that all animals be vaccinated against zoonoses that can endanger humans.
- Abandonment and allowing dogs to roam unsupervised can be legislated against.
- Legal requirements can be set for breeding establishments and pet shops, to ensure that animals are kept according to good welfare standards and that puppies and kittens are raised in conditions that are good for their health and ensure they will be well adjusted pets.
- Legislation should also protect animals against cruelty, neglect and inhumane killing.
- Enforcement will require collaboration between police, legal representatives, members of the veterinary community and the public. Animal welfare officers can be employed to enforce the legislation at 'ground level'.

Legislation is the responsibility of governments and local authorities. However, animal welfare organisations can lobby very effectively for changes in legislation and can play an important role in its development. Once legislation is in place, pressure and support from animal welfare organisations can help ensure that it is enforced. Successful 'test cases' brought by animal welfare organisations can also help to ensure that legislation is used effectively.



Education

Education is a long-term solution to stray animal control and should be aimed at both adults and children. There are many different ways of educating people, including printed material, the media, the internet, schools and public lectures. Education aimed at reducing stray populations should, at a minimum, touch upon the following:

- The biological and psychological needs of companion animals
- The responsibility of owning an animal, including registration, identification, vaccination and supervision
- Responsibility for an animal lasts for its entire life and for the life of any offspring it produces
- The problems and solutions of stray animals, including sterilisation of both owned and stray animals and the re-homing of unwanted and stray animals.

Animal welfare organisations can play a vital role in educating the public about responsible animal ownership and the problems of and solutions to stray populations. Investing in the next generation by educating children can be both rewarding and extremely effective in the long term. There are many educational resources available, some of which can be found in the 'Further Resources' section of this chapter.

Neutering/Sterilisation of Owned Animals

Neutering owned animals prevents the problem of unwanted puppies and kittens that may become part of the stray population. It also helps the health of the individual animal by reducing the incidence of several diseases (such as pyometra and mammary tumours); it removes the energy costs of breeding and reduces metabolic rate so animals gain and maintain weight more efficiently. There are also behavioural benefits, such as reduced roaming in castrated males.

Animal welfare organisations can help by educating the public about the importance and benefits of neutering. Setting up a veterinary clinic that offers free or reduced price neutering and veterinary services to owners can be a very practical way of helping owners that couldn't otherwise afford to treat or sterilise their animals. Providing transport and a donation towards the cost of the neutering at a private veterinary clinic can also be very effective. Shelters run by animal protection organisations should also only re-home dogs and cats that are sterilised.

b) Reducing the Carrying Capacity

Reducing the carrying capacity of the environment should always be carried out in conjunction with other methods aimed at reducing the overall population. This will prevent migration from surrounding areas into an area where the stray population is reducing.

Animal proof bins (such as those with heavy lids, or bins placed out of reach of animals) and more regular removal of waste can effectively reduce the carrying capacity of the environment. Specific problem areas such as parks, city centres and main roads can be targeted to ensure that stray animals do not enter these areas to forage, hence reducing the nuisance complaints and keeping animals away from fast moving traffic. Education programmes can also help to change people's littering habits and encourage responsible waste disposal.

c) Ways of Dealing with an Existing Stray Population

There are many ways of dealing with an existing stray population. The suitability of each measure will depend on many factors, including the environment, the attitude of local people and availability of financial resources.

Reuniting Lost Animals

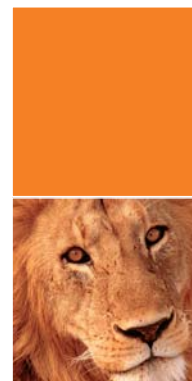
Any programme that involves collecting stray animals from the streets should take into account that some of these animals may be owned and provision should be made for owners to be reunited with their lost animals. Registration and identification will facilitate this process immensely. The public must also be informed as to the location and contact details of the local holding facility.

Ideally animals should be held for at least seven days to allow time for owners to reclaim their animals.

Re-homing

Animals that are not reclaimed can then be assessed for re-homing. A centre that offers a re-homing service must provide the following:

- A clean, safe and healthy environment that meets both biological and psychological needs of all animals kept in the centre
- Quarantine for all incoming animals to safeguard the current inhabitants from infectious diseases
- Veterinary treatment and prophylactic disease measures should be available for all animals
- Limitation on numbers housed at any one time to avoid compromising the welfare of the current inhabitants.



WSPA reluctantly accepts that it may be necessary to euthanise healthy animals in order to safeguard the welfare of the current animals and to allow new animals the chance of being re-homed. A re-homing shelter may decide to euthanise animals that have the least chance of finding new homes, for example old or aggressive animals.

Re-homing centres are expensive, require consistent funding and are extremely time consuming. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) suggests that a society that is considering opening a re-homing centre should ensure they have the funds for both the initial construction and running costs for at least the first year. The HSUS publication 'Issues to consider before starting a shelter' contains excellent advice and caution.

It must also be taken into account that the re-homing centre will reduce time available to the society for other important services such as education and campaigning, as well as the time available for fundraising. WSPA's 'Alternatives to Animal Shelters' document offers advice on other avenues of work that can be effective and efficient ways of addressing companion animal welfare.

Humane Euthanasia

Humane euthanasia is a subject of ongoing debate amongst animal protectionists. Ideal philosophies on when euthanasia should be used can become unsupportable in the face of reality, leading to inevitable compromises. The challenge is to find when such compromises should be made and when principles of animal welfare should be upheld.

Humane euthanasia is defined as painless, rapid unconsciousness followed by cardiac and respiratory arrest, and ultimately death. WSPA believes that the killing of companion animals should only be done using humane euthanasia, which is administered by responsible and properly trained individuals.

WSPA believes that humane euthanasia is acceptable when an animal is experiencing a poor quality of life due to illness, injury or behavioural problems. WSPA reluctantly accepts that humane euthanasia of healthy animals may be necessary in order to avoid compromising their welfare or the welfare of other animals.

Catch Neuter and Release (CNR) Programmes

CNR comes under many names, including **Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR)** and **Animal Birth Control (ABC)**. It essentially involves catching stray animals, sterilising them, vaccinating them, and then releasing them back to the place they were initially caught. The benefits of such an approach include:

- Reduction in zoonoses transmission.
- Sterilising stray animals can improve their health by taking away the energy costs of breeding and reduces the risks of injury and disease transmission of breeding.
- Sterilising a stray animal ensures that it will no longer give birth to offspring that would be likely to suffer and die at a young age.
- Returning a sterilised animal to its original territory reduces migration of other stray animals into that area.
- Stray populations can continue to function as biological control of rodents.

CNR can essentially lead to a stable and healthy population of animals, if the sterilisation rate is maintained at a high enough level. The percentage of animals that will need to be sterilised will depend upon reproduction rate and survival in the particular population of animals. However, CNR alone will not address the stray animal problem in the long term while there is an owned population that is not accessible to the catching teams and so not being neutered. Hence CNR on its own will not lead to a significant reduction in population size. CNR instead should be seen as a temporary method that stabilises the current stray population whilst the sources of stray animals are also addressed for the long-term.



It is also important to be aware that CNR may actually be counter productive for building a culture of Responsible Animal Ownership when some of the animals being caught are actually owned roaming animals or community animals. In this situation the responsibility for neutering and vaccination should lie with the owners or community, hence a neutering and vaccination programme that is based in community or owner participation and education would be more effective in the long-term than CNR.



The following is a list of requirements that must be in place for CNR to be considered as an appropriate method:

- The majority of the population of stray animals are unowned. If many of the stray animals are in fact community or roaming owned animals then the neutering and vaccination programme should be carried out using participation of local people rather than catching on the streets.
- Stray animals are a significant source of the next generation of stray animals, in other words when they are breeding successfully. If animals on the street do not seem to be able to raise a litter to maturity this indicates that the source of the stray animals is coming from owned animals, hence these should be the target for the neutering programme.
- The environment can support free roaming animals in a good state of welfare. For example traffic flow is slow or light and there are reliable food sources available.
- Local people want to maintain the local free roaming animal population as part of their community. Without support from local people the programme will not only be difficult to run but also the safety of the returned dogs will not be guaranteed.
- There is support from both local and national government, without such support, again the safety of returned animals cannot be guaranteed.
- There is an understanding that CNR will achieve stabilisation for the short term and will be replaced in the long-term with a programme that will address the sources of stray dogs and increase Responsible Animal Ownership, working towards the ultimate goal of all companion animals having responsible and caring owners.



Although CNR can be effective, there are many important limitations on its use. It is an important principle to consider that the welfare of every animal that is caught, sterilised and returned becomes the responsibility of the CNR programme. The return of the sterilised stray animal to the streets does not signal the end of this responsibility; hence the likely fate of returned animals must be considered.

The following is a list of examples of situations where a Catch Neuter and Release technique is not suitable:

- Where there is **indiscriminate killing of stray animals**. In this situation it is pointless to waste money on catching and sterilising animals that will then later be killed.
- Where the **environment is unsuitable**. Large urban areas with fast flowing traffic are not suitable for CNR programmes. Releasing an animal into an environment where it is likely to be run down does not constitute good animal welfare.
- Where the **local community has intolerance**. Not all people like stray animals and there may be strong religious and cultural reasons for negative views towards certain species. Efforts should be made to educate people about the positive consequences of a CNR programme, however the opinions of local people should be considered as they have a right to a view on their local environment. It is also very important to consider how local people will react towards stray animals once they have been returned. Cruelty and abuse towards stray animals is an unfortunate reality that must be considered.

From the above discussion, it is clear that CNR will only be suitable in a restricted number of situations and is often more suitable for cats than dogs.

If CNR is deemed to be appropriate for a particular situation, there are a number of important factors that must be considered:



Sensitisation of Local People: Education and Public Relations (PR) campaigns should be used to explain the programme to local people to gain their support and assistance. This can be done in a number of ways, including TV, radio, leaflets, through community leaders and public announcements. The attitude of the local people will have a powerful impact on the success of a CNR programme. Indeed if the local people strongly dislike stray animals, or are aggressive towards them, it is inadvisable to start a CNR programme in the area.

Animal Catching: The catching of animals for a CNR programme must be done humanely. The precise method used to catch animals will depend on local conditions, the species and temperament of the animals involved. The principle should be to reduce the risk of injury and stress caused by catching. This can be done through educating the catching team on the concept of animal welfare and humane handling, using incentives and involving the catching team/individuals in the whole CNR process to encourage responsibility and interest in the animals themselves.

Humane Euthanasia: Some individuals will not be suitable for release back into the stray population. Very old, very young or sick animals should not be returned to the streets where they will inevitably suffer. Animals that are carrying life threatening infectious diseases (such as advanced venereal tumours or distemper) that would endanger other stray animals should also be euthanised. Aggressive animals should also not be returned to the streets; since they are also not re-homable, they should be humanely euthanised.

Vaccinations: Prophylactic treatment in the form of vaccinations should be given to all animals. This is to reduce both the danger of zoonoses and other infectious diseases that can affect the health of the sterilised animals. It is a principle that any animal that has been sterilised in a CNR programme should be kept as healthy as possible.

Sterilisation Techniques: The sterilisation itself should be done to the highest standards. Stray animals do not have the luxury of after-care provided by an owner. Hence strict aseptic and modern surgical techniques should be used at all times. In the future chemical sterilisation may become possible. Currently, no chemical sterilisation methods have proved suitable for CNR programmes.

Marking: Sterilised animals should be marked with a permanent mark to show that they have been sterilised. The technique used to do this permanent marking will depend on local conditions and may take the form of ear tipping, tattooing or microchipping.

If the permanent mark is not visible, the animal should also carry a visible mark, such as a coloured collar, to prevent repeat catching and to allow them to be identified by local people and authorities.

Returning: Animals should be returned as near as possible to the point of capture to ensure they find their original territories and do not either get lost or encounter aggression whilst crossing other territories.

“EVERY PROJECT IN WHICH I’VE BEEN INVOLVED HAS HAD MAJOR OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME. IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES I LED A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS AIMED AT RETRAINING MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES TO BECOME ANIMAL WARDENS. THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS PERSUADING A TEAM OF FORMER DOG-SHOOTERS TO ACTUALLY TOUCH A DOG, SINCE THEY REGARDED THE ANIMALS AS UNCLEAN. EVENTUALLY, I DEvised A METHOD USING A CANVAS BAG IN WHICH THEY COULD CARRY THE DOGS. CULTURAL DIFFERENCES LIKE THIS ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN MY WORK.” ~ Brian Faulkner, Senior Consultant, Stray Animal Solutions



4

COMPANION ANIMAL VETERINARY CLINICS

Veterinary clinics run by animal welfare charities can provide an excellent service to those animals owned by people who cannot afford to pay private veterinary fees. As discussed previously, addressing the source of the stray population by providing a sterilisation service for owned animals can also have a significant impact on the future stray population.

Static veterinary clinics (based at a permanent residence) will be most effective if they are sited within those communities most in need of free or reduced cost veterinary services. Alternatively, the veterinary clinic can have an 'out-reach' element. This can range from a vet that travels to areas of need carrying veterinary supplies to perform simple treatments and give prophylactic care, to a fully functional mobile veterinary clinic with an on-board operating theatre.

There are a number of principles that any veterinary service provided by an animal welfare organisation should follow:

Provide the best quality of veterinary care: The animals likely to be treated by such a programme may not be in the best of health. They may have compromised immune systems, high disease or parasite loads and malnourishment, for example. Hence the veterinary care provided should be of the best quality to compensate for this situation. This is especially important when the veterinary treatment includes surgery, where strict asepsis should be followed to give the animal the best chance of an excellent recovery.

Know your limitations: Although the veterinary care that is provided should be of the best quality, it should always be kept in mind that complicated treatments would be expensive in terms of resources and time. Every complex case that is accepted will drain time and resources that could have been used to give more basic treatments to many more animals. It is advisable that good relationships are built with private veterinary services or veterinary universities for the provision of more complex veterinary care. There should also be an agreed euthanasia policy in place to deal with situations where treatment is not possible.

Prevention is better than cure: Prophylactic treatments and education in the correct care of companion animals will help prevent animal suffering before it becomes an issue. Out-reach veterinary programmes can provide the perfect opportunity for educating the public on animal care.

Coordination of an out-reach programme is essential: In addition to the veterinary personnel, it is advisable to have a suitable person to coordinate the programme. Among their many roles, the coordinator must ensure that the out-reach programme is publicised sufficiently, that the clinic is suitably stocked, that animals are both received and returned efficiently and that any education material or programme is delivered effectively. The main aim for the coordinator will be to ensure veterinary treatment is delivered to as many animals as possible, by allowing the most efficient use of the veterinary team's time.

Owners can provide post-operative care, but they must be well informed of the signs of recovery and given a contact number to call if there are any problems.

Mobile and static clinics can be used in CNR programmes. Post-operative care for stray animals as part of a CNR programme can be short if suitable veterinary techniques are used (including excellent asepsis). In addition to this, local people should be informed of the signs of recovery and given a contact number to call if there are any problems. Ideally, an interested member of the local community should be selected as a 'guardian', who is responsible for periodically checking the condition of stray animals that have gone through the CNR programme and alerting the veterinary clinic if there are problems.



5

CASE STUDIES



a) Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, United Kingdom

The RSPCA is involved in a wide range of activities, from investigating cruelty cases and providing animal care to campaigning and education.

Every year the UK RSPCA re-homes around 70,000 animals, mostly through its network of branches. Branches are separately registered charities operating subject to RSPCA and branch rules. They work for animal welfare locally and many provide services including subsidised veterinary treatment, neutering and re-homing schemes.

In 2004, the RSPCA investigated just under 110,000 complaints of alleged cruelty. In many cases animals were removed from their homes and taken to RSPCA animal centres to be cared for until they were healthy enough to be re-homed. Stray and abandoned companion animals and animals confiscated by the courts following RSPCA investigations are also cared for and re-homed by RSPCA animal centres.

Usually, before anyone can adopt an animal from the RSPCA, an interview is carried out. This process divides the serious from the not-so-serious potential owners and gives the new owners the opportunity to think about what they are taking on. This way, there are no impulsive decisions and the RSPCA is certain the animal is going to the right home. In addition, a home visit may be required for certain animals and is often followed up with a post-adoption visit.

In an effort to reduce the number of animals reproducing, popular pets, such as cats, dogs and rabbits are neutered as well as vaccinated, before they are re-homed. Microchipping is also recommended.

The RSPCA will euthanise animals which are suffering and which cannot be treated. Aggressive dogs, for example, which cannot be safely re-homed may also have to be humanely destroyed. In a small number of cases it may be necessary to destroy animals which, although basically healthy, cannot be re-homed owing to behavioural or other problems. The RSPCA is opposed to long-term confinement in shelters as this can cause animals distress and suffering.

b) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Selangor, Malaysia

The SPCA Selangor was established in 1958 by Mrs Ruth Spiers, a British expatriate who set out to help the many stray animals suffering on the streets. The SPCA Selangor continues to work towards its mission of creating a compassionate society where companion animals are respected and protected, of establishing the measures needed to promote responsible ownership of companion animals, and of promoting care and kindness to all animals.

The SPCA Selangor receives more than 800 animals a month, most of which are handed over by their owners. Today, the shelter houses up to 350 animals, mainly consisting of cats and dogs. The adoption rate is low, about 15%, and the shelter is constantly challenged by a shortage of space and limited funds. The SPCA Selangor receives no government funding and is entirely funded by public donations.

In addition to running its shelter, the SPCA Selangor investigates and prosecutes cruelty cases, conducts humane education programmes and works to improve animal protection legislation.

SPCA Selangor Spay/Neuter Campaign – Stray Free Malaysia 2010

With the vision of creating a stray free Malaysia by 2010, a spay/neuter campaign (referred to as Kempen Kembiri in Malay) was launched in 2002. Kempen Kembiri was embarked upon with



government agencies and other animal welfare organisations to manage the population of companion animals. It is a subsidised campaign, which provides low-cost sterilisations to pet-owners on lower incomes. Additionally, strays and community pets are collected, sterilised at the reduced fee, and later released back onto the streets.

The campaign received such an overwhelmingly positive response that the SPCA Selangor decided to turn it into a permanent clinic. With the support of one of the local municipalities, the clinic is now able to run without having to worry about rental and utility costs. The SPCA Selangor hopes that the success of the clinic will encourage other local municipalities to create spay/neuter clinics in their own areas.

c) Cat Cafés

Feral cat populations can cause disease, noise, smell and often spread rubbish about in search of food. This can create a nuisance, particularly around hotels and restaurants. WSPA devised the Cat Café scheme to address this problem.

A Cat Café is a designated feeding station, away from hotels and restaurants, where stray cats can be fed and cared for. Attracting the cats to the carefully selected locations avoids conflict with people. In addition to providing regular meals, a vaccination and sterilisation programme can also be set up. Sick and injured cats can also be trapped, cared for and released, re-homed or euthanised, if necessary.

An example of successful cat cafés are those installed by the **Cretan Animal Welfare Group (CAWG)** on the Greek island of Crete.

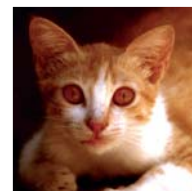
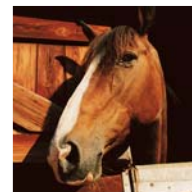
Numerous hotels and restaurants on Crete experience the problem of stray cats. Many of the property owners have no aversion to the cats themselves, but they can become a nuisance – constantly begging around the tables for food. Also, at the end of the season, when the tourists all go home and the establishments close for the winter, the cats' food supply disappears. They quickly become hungry and sick.

One hotel which identified such a problem was the Ikarus Village Hotel. The manager, Mr Manolis, approached the Cretan Animal Welfare Group for help and they suggested a Cat Café. The society already had three other successful cat cafés in the Malia area of Crete.

A volunteer from CAWG built the Cat Café from WSPA's construction plan and installed it at the hotel. The manager selected the site for the café – away from the hotel restaurants but close enough for residents to see and feed the cats if they wanted to.

The choice of site is very important – allowing guests who like the cats to see them, feed them if they want and know that they are cared for. But for those who are not animal lovers, the cats are out of the way and not making a nuisance of themselves. An additional benefit of cat cafés is the image taken back home by visitors. Where a cat café is present, they know that the hotel is taking an active role in animal welfare – something greatly appreciated.

The hotel manager will supply regular food and keep the area clean, and CAWG will also keep an eye on the site and aim to gain the trust of the cats. As well as being able to check that they are healthy, it will also make them easier to catch and neuter – the only real solution to the feral cat problem on Crete.



6

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q Should I start a shelter?**

A To a certain extent, when an animal protection society takes over the responsibility for sheltering and re-homing unwanted animals it is taking personal responsibility away from owners. It is allowing them to feel OK about giving up their animals (or letting them roam to be caught later), because the 'kind SPCA' will look after them on their behalf. It is also allowing the authorities to abdicate their responsibility for providing stray control services for the community unless they fund this, through tender schemes for example. There is, therefore, a case to be made that shelters are perpetuating the stray problem, unless they are also campaigning and educating. There are many different ways of addressing companion animal welfare, many of which are discussed above. WSPA also produces a document entitled 'Alternatives to Animal Shelters', which expands on this idea.

Q Should individuals keep wild/exotic animals as pets?

A No. Wild and exotic (non-native) animals are unsuitable for home rearing and handling. They have complex needs that are difficult to meet. Most individuals have neither the finances nor the experience to care for them properly. It has been estimated that 90% are dead within the first two years of captivity. Many wild animals forced into a domestic situation cause injury to humans, especially children. Others, if released into the environment, can cause irreversible and costly damage to our ecosystem.

Q What do you do about dangerous dogs?

A There have been various attempts to control dangerous dogs; many involve strict legislation and control following public outcry generated by media coverage of attacks on children. Most animal protection societies denounce attempts to control (kill) dogs based on breed alone. Less draconian control methods include the requirement that all dogs declared to be dangerous be identified, recorded, neutered and controlled by muzzle and leash when in public places. Indeed, control based on breed alone not only condemns all dogs of given breeds (regardless of temperament), but also excludes dogs with dangerous temperaments from non-specified breeds.

Q Why does indiscriminate killing of stray animals not work?

A Indiscriminate killing is the perfect example of dealing only with the 'end product' and not with the source of the stray population; hence, it will never be an effective means of removing all stray animals. There are also additional problems with disease transmission. Killing stray animals is commonly used to prevent the spread of rabies; however, this has never been shown to be effective. Mass vaccination campaigns on the other hand, both with and without concurrent sterilisation campaigns, have been shown to lead to both the reduction and elimination of rabies in rural and urban areas. Please refer to the 'Further Resources' section of this chapter, which lists examples of where data on successful vaccination campaigns can be found.



7

FURTHER RESOURCES

WSPA Pet Respect Resources

A range of leaflets, reports and videos are available for WSPA member societies to help them get involved in the Pet Respect programme. Download the leaflets in PDF format from www.wspa-international.org or contact WSPA's London office to obtain the following resources:

Leaflets

Setting up a Cat Café
 Early Age Neutering
 Care for your Dog
 Care for your Cat
 Humane Euthanasia (2000)
 Population Survey (2001)

Reports

Stray Dog Control (1994); Updated 1999
 Cat Care & Control (1997); Updated 2001
 Animal Control Officer (1999)
 WHO/WSPA Guidelines for Dog Population Management (1990)

Videos

The Pet Respect Programme
 Stray Dog Control
 Cat Care & Control
 Animal Control Officer; Updated 2002
 Neutering Techniques for Dogs
 Neutering Techniques for Cats
 Early Age Neutering Techniques
 The Importance of Neutering
 Setting up a Cat Café
 Humane Euthanasia

Booklets

Planning and Running an Animal Shelter (2005)
 Alternatives to Animal Shelters (2005)
 Caring for Animals – a teachers' manual to encourage respect and compassion for dogs and cats

Web Sites**Alley Cat Allies**

www.alleycat.org/resources.html

This site has a wide selection of publications, including many useful ones about trap neuter return programmes.

Animals Australia

www.animalsaustralia.org/default2.asp?idL1=1273&idL2=1291

A companion animal fact sheet is available.

The Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement (APLB)

<http://aplb.org/>

APLB is a worldwide clearing-house for all information on pet bereavement.

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies

www.cfhs.ca/animals/Cats_and_Dogs+top_picks

This federation produces thoughtful, well-written fact sheets and booklets on companion animal issues.

The Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA)

<http://public.fecava.org/pub/index.php?session=&main=1>





Feral Cat Coalition (FCC)

www.feralcat.com

The FCC is an all-volunteer, tax-exempt organisation that helps the public to trap, sterilise and return feral cats to their caretakers. The FCC publishes practical information sheets that detail most aspects of their work, including actual forms, written procedures and handouts.

Humane Society of the United States

www.hsus.org/

Large selection of materials and advice on pet care, issues affecting pets, pet adoption, animal shelters.

HSUS Electronic Library

www.hsus.org/ace/14954

Includes:

- How to form an animal protection organisation in your community
- Issues to consider before starting a shelter
- HSUS Guidelines for the operation of an animal shelter
- HSUS Guidelines for a responsible adoption program
- HSUS Guidelines for animal shelter policies
- Fundraising and PR
- Animal sheltering and control documents

Animal Sheltering Online

www.animalsheltering.org/

A programme of the Humane Society of the United States.

The International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organisations

www.iahaio.org/

Maddie's Fund

www.maddiesfund.org/

There is a section on building a 'no kill' organisation, including reasons for being a 'no kill' organisation.

PETA: Companion Animals

www.animalactivist.com/companionAnimals.asp

RSPCA

www.rspca.org.uk/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RSPCA/Publications/PublicationsHomepage

A wide range of companion animal publications is available. Basic guidelines for animal shelters are also detailed.

RSPCA Australia

www.rspca.org.au/

Save Our Strays

www.saveourstrays.com

Provides information on humane issues and the human-animal bond.

Society for Companion Animal Studies

www.scas.org.uk/

The Dogs Trust

www.dogstrust.org.uk/main.asp?structureid=24

The Dogs Trust has many publications, including a wide range of fact sheets on dog issues.

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

www.ufaw.org.uk/

UFAW publishes 'Animal Welfare – the Journal', which compiles researchers' and practitioners' reviews, research papers, letters etc. on topical animal protection issues. The site also includes a number of companion animal resources, including a book on 'Dog Housing and Welfare'.

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA)

www.wsava.org/

Books**Companion Animals and Us: Exploring the Relationships Between People and Pets**

Anthony Podberscek (Editor), Elizabeth S. Paul (Editor), James A. Serpell (Editor)

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

ISBN: 0521631130

Dog Housing and Welfare**(UFAW Animal Welfare Research Report)**

R. Hubrecht

Publisher: Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

ISBN: 0900767820

Euthanasia of the Companion Animal: the Impact on Pet Owners, Veterinarians and Society

William K., DVM Kay (Editor), Susan P., CSW ACSW Cohen (Editor), Herbert A., PhD Nieburg (Editor), Carole E., CSW ACSW Fudin (Editor), Ross E., DVM Grey (Editor), Austin H., DDS Kutscher (Editor), Mohamed M., DVM PhD Osman (Editor)

Publisher: The Charles Press

ISBN: 0914783254

Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB), UK

www.fabcats.org/publications.html

Boarding Cattery Manual

FAB Standard for Construction & Management of Boarding Catteries

Cat Rescue

FAB Journal

FAB Felix Cat Personality Report

Humane Society of the United States

www.hsus.org/ace/14364

A selection of books including:

The Humane Society of the United States Complete Guide to Cat Care

The Humane Society of the United States Complete Guide to Dog Care

The Humane Society of the United States Euthanasia Training Manual

In the Company of Animals

J. Serpell

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

ISBN: 0521577799





**Noise in Dog Kennelling
(UFAW Animal Welfare Research Report)**

Gillian Sales

Publisher: Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

ISBN: 0900767952

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

www.rspca.org.uk/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RSPCA/Publications/BooksPublishedRSPCA&articleid=0

A wide range of books published by the RSPCA are available, covering many companion animal issues.

Save Our Strays: How to End Pet Overpopulation and Stop Killing Healthy Cats and Dogs

Bob Christiansen

www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1884421490/103-7530673-0635031?v=glance

This book is based on more than 52 research articles; it explains, with scientific evidence, the dynamics of overpopulation of cats and dogs and offers effective solutions.

The Dog Law Handbook

www.shaws.co.uk/books/book_catalogue_listing2.htm

ISBN: 0721913407

This publication explains all aspects of the UK law as it relates to dog ownership. The book is designed for ease of use and comprehension by those outside the legal profession and is now a standard reference book for dog wardens.

The Domestic Dog: its Evolution, Behaviour and Interactions With People

J. Serpell

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

ISBN: 0521425379