

**World Society for the Protection of Animals  
&  
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
International**

**Report**

**Stray Animal Control Practices (Europe)**

**An investigation of stray dog and cat population control  
practices across Europe**

**September 2006 – March 2007**



World Society for the Protection of Animals  
25 years of animal welfare 1981-2006

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A report into the strategies for controlling stray dog and cat populations adopted in  
thirty European countries

## **Stray Animal Control Practices (Europe)**

**An investigation of stray dog and cat population control  
practices across Europe**

By

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This report was compiled on behalf of:

***The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)***

***Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – International (RSPCA)***

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## **PREFACE**

This project was commissioned by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International (RSPCA International). It was intended to update an existing study of dog population control practices across Europe conducted by RSPCA International, in 1999. Furthermore the present survey also included questions on the control of stray cats. In addition to the questionnaire, a small number of case study countries were reviewed in an attempt to document their progression towards successful stray dog control.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Definitions of stray dogs and cats**

#### **a) Stray dogs**

Definitions of stray dogs are inherently problematic and judgements regarding when a dog is considered to be a stray varies from country to country and may be subject to local and national regulations (see Table 1, for three classifications of dogs considered “stray”). Any dog, found unaccompanied by a responsible person in a public place may be considered in some countries to be stray and collected accordingly. Conversely, at the other end of the scale, unwanted dogs; dogs, whose owners have revoked all care giving responsibilities, may, if they survive for long enough, be able to reproduce and rear young. Though this generation of dogs may be considered to be genuinely ownerless and in some instances feral, their survival rates are invariably low and their reproductive success is poor, this is extremely rare and they are therefore not considered to be the main source of overpopulation. Somewhere between the two examples, dogs may be cared for by one or more members of a community, allowed to roam and permitted to reproduce. Nevertheless, they are genuinely dependent upon human caregivers, as they provide access to the resources essential for their survival. The reproduction rates of these dogs and their rearing success has the potential to be high because care given by humans offers the necessary protection for puppy survival.

In summary, feral dogs, those that are truly independent of human care givers are rarely considered to be salient contributors to the problem of strays.

#### **b) Stray cats**

The relationship between cats and their caretakers is intrinsically different to dogs, although the same set of associations may apply but to varying degrees (Table 1). Indeed cats, can and will change lifestyles during their lifespan.

### **1.2. Problems associated with stray dogs and cats**

Stray animals, often experience poor health and welfare, related to a lack of resources or provision of care necessary to safeguard each of their five freedoms. Furthermore, they can pose a significant threat to human health through their role in disease transmission. A summary of the problems arising from stray cats and dogs is given in Table 2.



**Table 1.** Classification of dogs and cats by their dependence upon humans

Classification	Dogs	Cats
<b>STRAY –</b> <i>The following 3 terms may be used to classify stray dogs and cats:</i>	No owners or caretakers	Un-owned, independent of human control
	Generally derived from dog populations under some degree of human care “gone wild”	Poorly socialized to human handling
	Found on the outskirts of urban and rural areas	Sub-population of free roaming cats (may be offspring from owned or abandoned cats)
	Poorly socialized to human handling	Survive through scavenging and hunting
	Survive by scavenging	
<b>Feral</b>	Poor survival rates	
	Low reproductive capacity	
<b>Abandoned/ unwanted by their owners</b>	Were once dependent on an owner for care	Were once dependent on an owner for care
	Owner is no longer willing to provide resources	The owner is no longer willing to provide resources
	May or may not be fed by other members of the community (food may be delivered intermittently)	May or may not be fed by other members of the community (food may be delivered intermittently)
	Survive by scavenging	Survive by scavenging or hunting
	Poor survival prospects once there is no longer a caretaker to provide food or shelter?	May or may not be socialized to human handling
<b>Owned not controlled</b>	Free-roaming dogs	Free roaming cats
	“Latch-key” dogs	“Kept” outdoors
	Community or neighbourhood dogs	Either entirely free to roam or may be semi-restricted at particular times of the day
	Either entirely free to roam or may be semi-restricted at particular times of the day	Dependent upon humans for some of their resources
	Dependent upon humans for resources	
	May or may not be sterilized	May or may not be sterilized
	Potential for high reproductive capacity and rearing rates	Potential for high reproductive capacity and rearing rates
<b>Owned controlled</b>	Totally dependent upon an owner for care and resources	Totally dependent on an owner for care and resources
	Generally under close physical control of the owner	May vary from totally indoor to indoor/outdoor, outdoor but confined to pen or garden
	Confined to the owners property or under control when in public places	In general reproduction may be controlled through sterilization or confinement
	Reproduction usually controlled through sterilization, chemical means or confinement	

### **1.3. The need for control**

It is important to develop long-term, sustainable strategies to deal effectively with stray animal populations. This is essential not only to protect humans from coming into contact with those animals but to protect the health and welfare of the animals themselves. Experience shows that effective control involves the adoption of more than one approach (WHO/WSPA, 1990). In Western societies, where the concept of “ownership” predominates, it requires a comprehensive, coordinated and progressive programme of owner education, environmental management, compulsory registration and identification, controlled reproduction of pets and the prevention of over production of pets through regulated breeding and selling. All of these elements should be underpinned by effective and enforced legislation. To implement these elements successfully requires the involvement of more than one agency; and in turn is dependent upon the willingness of government departments, municipalities, veterinary agencies and Non Government Organisations (NGO’s) to work together.

### **1.4. Introduction to the project**

Stray cats and dogs may experience poor welfare; scavenging for food, competing for limited resources and lack of veterinary care result in malnutrition, injury and disease. Furthermore, stray animals pose a significant threat to human health by acting as vectors of disease. It is important therefore, to adopt approaches that deal effectively with stray animal populations.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) in collaboration with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International (RSPCA International) proposed a survey of European stray animal control measures. The purpose of this investigation was to produce a document that describes how Europe is currently tackling its stray dog and cat populations. The specific aim and objectives of the project are detailed below:

#### **1.4.1. Aim of the questionnaire survey**

- (1) To produce a report that documents the methods of stray dog and cat population control in Europe.

#### **1.4.2. Specific objectives**

- (1) To update an existing RSPCA International document outlining stray animal control measures in Europe.
- (2) To select a limited number of the most successful European Countries for more detailed case studies.
- (3) To describe in detail the selected countries progression towards and methods adopted for effective stray population control.
- (4) To identify the most important elements of stray animal control programmes that ensure they are effective and sustainable.

**Table 2.** Problems associated with stray dogs and cats

Factor	Dogs	Cats
<b>Public Health</b>		
1. Zoonosis	> 100 zoonotic disease identified; pathogens transmitted from dog to human	Similarities to zoonotic diseases in dogs
- Disease transmission	- varying degrees of severity  - varies with location	
2. Bite incidence	Dogs may be responsible for bite occurrences – varies from region to region, varies from level of ownership and severity of bite – rabies transmission	Cats may be responsible for bite occurrences – especially if they are not used to being handled by humans – rabies transmission and <i>Bartonella henselae</i> through bites and scratches
<b>Environmental contamination</b>	Deposition of excreta near or in areas inhabited by people  Genetic contaminants of wild <i>Canidae</i> populations?	Deposition of excreta near or in areas inhabited by people
<b>Nuisance factors</b>	Noise: Barking, howling, aggressive interactions  Odour/aesthetics: Territorial urine marking, faecal contamination and deposition of urine during elimination in the environment	Noise: Vocalization (fighting and reproduction)  Odour/aesthetics: Territorial urine spraying, faecal and urine contamination of the environment.
<b>Wildlife</b>	Predating smaller wild mammals	Proposed impact on bird and small mammal populations; predated upon by cats
<b>Damage to property &amp; livestock</b>	Result from accidents  Predation of livestock or game	Digging in gardens  Territorial urine spraying and scratching
<b>Animal welfare</b>	Injury resulting from car accidents  Injury from aggressive confrontation during competition for limited resources  Malnutrition due to limited availability of suitable food sources  Disease susceptibility  Inhumane culling methods, stray control measures  Persecution/deliberate abuse by members of the community	Injuries resulting from car accidents  Cat bite injuries  Malnutrition due to limited availability of suitable food sources  Disease susceptibility  Inhumane culling methods, stray control measure  Persecution/deliberate abuse by members of the community

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. General method

Seventy-two, WSPA member societies and RSPCA International affiliates, located in forty European countries were contacted by email and asked for information on stray dog and cat control in their country (Appendix 1.1.1). Each group was asked to complete a questionnaire detailing current stray control practices. An explanation of the study and instructions for completion of the questionnaire was outlined in a letter that accompanied email contact (Appendix 1.1.2). The groups were asked to return their completed questionnaires within three weeks, this was followed up by phone and email requests for outstanding responses after the initial deadline.

### 2.2. Contents of the questionnaire

The questionnaire was modified from an existing survey, last used in 1999 by RSPCA International (Appendix 1.1.4), to determine the extent of stray dogs and cats, and problems relating to their control in Europe. Table 3 contains the type of information requested from groups; a complete copy of the questionnaire is presented in the appendix (Appendix 1.1.3).

### 2.3. Selection of countries for more detailed investigation

In response to information provided by questionnaire respondents, no countries could be identified on the basis of their effective control of stray or feral cats. Therefore the case studies focussed entirely on the control of stray dogs.

Initially, six countries were identified for further investigation to enable the researcher to chart their progress towards, and success in achieving, effective stray dog population control. However, upon more detailed discussions with member societies and because of difficulties of gaining accurate information in the field this number was reduced to four (Table 4).

**Table 4.** Countries selected for further investigation for inclusion as case studies.

Case study Country	Reasons for inclusion
Slovenia	Reported consistently low numbers of stray dogs, progressive legislation and strategies being adopted and recent traceable history of progression
Sweden	Traditionally no stray dogs, long history of effective control and responsible dog ownership
Switzerland	Extended history of no stray dogs, progression towards strict dog control measures and ownership constraints
United Kingdom	Improving situation, ease of gaining information from a number of agencies involved in stray control

**Table 3.** Contents of the questionnaire circulated to groups in Europe to gather information on methods of stray animal control.

<b>Stray dog and cat population control factors</b>	<b>Type of information requested</b>
Legislation	Animal welfare legislation Pet ownership legislations or codes of practice Stray animal collection and control Euthanasia Animal shelters Dangerous dogs Breeding and sale of dogs and cats
Registration and licensing	Existence of a register or licensing scheme for dogs and cats and whether it is voluntary or compulsory Operated by Method of identification
Dog and cat population	Estimation of current population Population trends
Neutering	Subsidised neutering schemes
Shelters	Number of shelters in existence Operated by
Strays	Trends in stray population Monitoring of strays Source of strays
Control of stray dogs and cats	Methods of control Responsibility for capture
Euthanasia	Methods of culling Methods of euthanasia adopted by animal shelters and pounds Selection of animals for euthanasia
Owner education	Programmes on responsible pet ownership
Future strategies and proposals	Outline of plans for controlling stray dogs and cats that have been proposed

### **3. RESULTS**

#### **3.1. Response rate**

Thirty-two animal welfare groups, operating in thirty European countries, responded to the questionnaire (Appendix 1.1.5). They successfully provided information on the control of stray dogs and cats in their country. Groups operating in ten countries did not respond to our request for assistance. The survey covered a broad range of issues relating to stray dog and cat populations and their management. Ten subject headings were used in the questionnaire (Appendix 1.1.3.) and these have been used to provide structure to the results section of the report.

#### **3.2. LEGISLATION**

Twenty-six (87%) of the countries surveyed, have legislation that covers animal welfare and the protection of animals, including prohibiting animal cruelty (Table 5). Three countries (Belarus, Bulgaria, and Spain) reported that this was at the municipal level only; therefore variation existed in the inception of legislation between regions. One country (Bosnia-Herzegovina) reported that animal welfare was only addressed in veterinary legislation and thus limited in scope to the regulation of veterinary procedures. Three countries; Albania, Armenia and Azerbaijan Republic had no specific legislation designed to safeguard animal welfare. Similarly, these countries lacked additional regulations to control pet ownership, stray collection or the breeding and sale of pets. Consequently, these countries reported poor stray control; typified by measures such as municipal contracted culls, which involved the shooting of strays. Member societies in these three countries reported that this approach had little or no impact on their increasing stray population.

##### **3.2.1. Pet ownership**

Only ten (35%) out of the thirty countries surveyed had legislation that specifically addressed pet ownership i.e. who could own a pet (Table 5). With the exception of Switzerland, current regulations stipulated the age at which a person or persons could be considered responsible for an animal. In most instances the legislation required owners to be over 16 years of age. Switzerland, however, has adopted extraordinary legislation; from early 2007 all dog owners will be required to undertake practical and theoretical courses in responsible dog ownership including dog training and behaviour.

In sixty percent of countries ( $N=18$ ), legislation relating to pets, outlined requirements for their care and husbandry (Table 5). However, this was only vaguely addressed in the current regulations and poorly, if ever enforced in, eight of those countries. In the remaining ten countries, specific details of owner responsibilities and animal needs were outlined. Furthermore, four of those countries are improving/updating their legislation, being more explicit in outlining the husbandry needs of pets, these include the UK (Animal Welfare Act 2006, comes into effect in 2007), Switzerland (Animal Protection Ordinance to be updated in 2007/2008), Serbia (Animal Welfare Law being read in the National Assembly) and Estonia (Animal Protection Act, supplemental decrees being reviewed in parliament).

### **3.2.2. Breeding and selling**

Half of all countries surveyed outlined restrictions in the breeding and selling of dogs and cats in their national legislation (Table 5). However, laws controlling breeding were exclusively related to commercial practices, unless certain breeds of dogs were considered to be dangerous. The breeding and sale of prohibited breeds was covered in the dangerous dog legislation in seven countries rather than general legislation relating to pet sales.

The sale of dogs and cats was regulated in fourteen countries (48%). In general, the legislation prohibited the sale of pet animals in certain locations such as at markets and in the street. Some countries did aim to regulate the sale of animals through pet shops, for instance; Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, UK and Switzerland. Although the degree to which this was successful was not determined in the questionnaire.

### **3.2.3. Abandonment, stray animals, stray collection**

In 70% of countries ( $N=21$ ) abandoning pets was illegal. However, nine member societies reported that this was hardly ever enforced in their countries, they included; Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Moldova, Portugal and the Ukraine. Legislation relating to stray animals was declared in twenty-four countries (80%), yet specific regulations relating to the collection of strays was reportedly absent in four of them. In Bosnia – Herzegovina legislation relating to strays was outlined under hunting laws, thus permitting the shooting of stray animals, but there was no specific legislation relating to the collection of strays for re-homing etc. Three of the respondents reported that there were no stray dogs, only stray cats in their country and the collection of stray cats was not specified in the legislation; they were Finland, the Netherlands and Slovenia.

### **3.2.4. Dangerous dogs**

Eleven out of the twenty-two countries that have legislation relating to dangerous or aggressive dogs are reported to have some form of prohibited breeds list, including; Belgium, Bosnia – Herzegovina, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Norway, Poland Switzerland and the UK.

**Table 5:** Legislation in Europe

Country	Legislation										
	Animal Welfare	Abandonment	Pet Ownership	Pet Care	Euthanasia	Strays	Stray Collection	Animal Shelters	Dangerous Dogs	Breeding	Sale
<b>Alb</b>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓NM	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>Arm</b>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>Az.Rep</b>	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓ Business	✗
<b>Bela</b>	✓M	✗	✓N Loose	✓M Not adhered	✓M	✓M	✓M	✗	✓M	✗	✗
<b>Belg</b>	✓N	✓N	✓NM	✓N	✓NM	✓NM	✓NM	✓NM	✓NM	✓N	✓N
<b>Bos – Her</b>	✓N (Vet)	✗	✗	✓NM Not adhered	✓M	✓M	✗	✗	✓M	✗	✗
<b>Bul</b>	✓M Ltd.	✓M	✓M	✓N Vague	✓N	✓NM	✓M	✗	✓N	✓N	✓N
<b>Cro</b>	✓N	✗	✗	✗	-	✓M	✓N	-	-	-	-
<b>Den</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✗	✓N	✓N D	✓N D	✓N D	✓N	✗ Ex. DD	✓N
<b>Est</b>	✓NM	✓N	✗	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓NM	✗	✗
<b>Fin</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N	✗	✓N	✓N
<b>Ger</b>	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓M	✓NM	✓M	✓N	✓N
<b>Gre</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N Not adhered	✓N Prohib	✓N	✓M	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N
<b>Hun</b>	✓N	✓M	✗	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N
<b>Ire</b>	✓N	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N

✓: Yes; ✗: No; N: National; M: Municipal; Ex DD: Except Dangerous Dogs; DD: Dangerous Dogs only; Prohib: Prohibited; D: Dogs Only



**Table 5 (ctd):** Legislation in Europe

Country	Legislation										
	Animal Welfare	Abandonment	Pet Ownership	Pet Care	Euthanasia	Strays	Stray Collection	Animal Shelters	Dangerous Dogs	Breeding	Sale
<b>Lith</b>	✓NM	✓NM	✓N	✓NM Vague	✓NM	✓NM	✓M	✓N	✓NM	✓M	✓NM
<b>Mal</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✗	✓N	✗	✗	✗	✓N	✗ Ex. DD	✗
<b>Moldo</b>	✓N	✗	✗	✗	✓N	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>Neth</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✗	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N	✓NM	✓N	✓N
<b>Nor</b>	✓N	✗	✗	✗	✓N	✗	✗	✗	✓N	✗	✗
<b>Pol</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N	✗	✗
<b>Por</b>	✓N	✓N	✓N	✓N Vague	✓N	✓NM	✓M	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N
<b>Ser – Mon</b>	✓N	✓N	✓NM	✓N	✓NM	✓NM	✓NM	✓N	✓NM	✓N	✓N
<b>Slov</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N	✓N	✓N	✗	✓N	✗	✓N	✓N
<b>Spa</b>	✓M	✓M	✗	✓M Vague	✓M	✓M	✓M	✓M	✓NM	✗	✗
<b>Swe</b>	✓N	✓N	✗	✓NM	✓N	✗	✗	✗	✓N	✓N	✗
<b>Swi</b>	✓NM	✓N	✓N (Part)	In prep	In prep	In prep	✗	✓N	✓NM	✓N	✗
<b>Ukr</b>	✓N	✓M	✗	✗	✓M	✓M	✓M	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>UK</b>	✓N	✓N	✓N	In prep	✓N	✓N	✓N	?	✓N	✓N	✓N

✓: Yes; ✗: No; N: National; M: Municipal; **Ex DD**: Except Dangerous Dogs; **DD**: Dangerous Dogs only; **Prohib**: Prohibited; **D**: Dogs Only

### **3.3. STRAY CONTROL**

#### **3.3.1. Dogs**

##### **a) Licensing and registration**

In nineteen countries (63%) it is compulsory for dogs to either be licensed or registered (Table 6). However, this was considered ineffective in helping to reduce stray numbers in twelve of those countries because the law was neither enforced nor adhered to by owners. Consequently, unidentified dogs found straying could not be reunited with their owners. Four countries (14%) surveyed, reported that they had no schemes in place, whilst the remaining seven countries (24%) outlined voluntary schemes.

##### **b) Identification**

In general, countries had more than one identification system in place; the implantation of a microchip was the most popular system as cited in twenty-two countries (73%). However, this was most often used in combination with an identification tag worn on a collar (Table 6). In fifteen countries (50%), permanent identification was achieved by tattooing dogs. In cases where more than one mode of dog identification was given by respondents, the questionnaire did not ask which system predominated, i.e. which type of identification was used most often by owners.

#### **3.3.1.i. Population trends**

##### **a) National dog population**

No country surveyed, reported that it centrally monitored its national dog population, demographics or trends in ownership via regular census. Although, seventeen countries (57%) did give estimates of the numbers of dogs nationally, these were figures generally collected by external agencies (kennel clubs or pet food manufacturers) rather than central government and its animal health departments. Therefore owned dog population data was not always collected annually and was either based upon the number of registrations with breed organisations (purebred dogs only) or pet food sales.

Consequently, as a result of the paucity of this fundamental data, trends or changes in pet populations over time (5 years) were estimates, based upon the perceptions of groups operating in each country. Therefore their response may not be an accurate reflection of changing population demographics. Nevertheless, sixteen countries (53%) reported an increase in owned dog numbers over the last five years. Yet this parameter is not a reliable indicator of poor dog control in those countries, on the contrary seven of those countries reporting increases have an extended history of consistently low or no stray dogs; Belgium, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland. Worryingly, nine out of the sixteen countries still had ongoing, unresolved problems relating to stray dog control. Indeed, five countries (Albanian, Armenia, Croatia, Moldova, and Serbia) had both increasing owned dog populations and stray dog populations, this appeared to be related to a lack of legislation across all spectrums, relevant to stray control; animal welfare, control of breeding, sale and ownership of dogs and lack of a coordinated strategy for dealing with strays.

Only two countries (7%); Bulgaria and the United Kingdom, reported decreases in their national, owned dog population. This was also the case for their national, stray dog numbers. The remaining eight countries (27%) reported that owned dog numbers remained constant over the intervening five years. These included countries that had both increasing or “unacceptably” high stray numbers (Azerbaijan Republic, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal) and consistently low or no stray dogs (Ireland, Denmark).

**Table 6:** Stray dog control in Europe

Country	Licensing/Registration			ID	Help to reduce strays?	Population figures				Source of strays	Methods of stray control	Responsibility for strays	Strays kept (d)	Shelters
	Com/Vol	Cost	Run			National Estimate	Trends	Strays Estimate	Trends					
<b>Alb</b>	No	-	-	Mchp	-	U/K	Increase	U/K	Increase	N/O	<i>Culled shot</i>	Contractors(M)	No restrictions	<b>0</b>
<b>Arm</b>	Vol	-	VD	N/S	No	U/K	Increase	U/K	Increase	U/K	<i>Culled shot</i>	Contractors(M)	No restrictions	<b>1</b> 100% M
<b>Az. Rep</b>	No	-	-	No	-	U/K	Constant	U/K	Constant	99 N/O	<i>Culled shot</i>	Contractors(M)	N/S	<b>0</b>
<b>Bela</b>	Com	2 – 15 USD	M	Tag	No	U/K	U/K	U/K	U/K	60%Roam	<i>Caught</i>	Contractors(M)	5	<b>1</b> 100%AWO
<b>Belg</b>	Com	50 Euros	G	Tag Tatt Mchp	NO STRAYS	1.6 million	Increase	0	Constant	-	-	AWO	15	<b>60</b> 100%AWO
<b>Bos-He</b>	Com	15 Euros	M	Tag Tatt Mchp	No	U/K	U/K	U/K	U/K	U/K	<i>Culled shot</i> <i>Caught</i>	Contractors(M)	3	<b>3</b> 66%AWO 33%M
<b>Bul</b>	No	-	-	No	-	U/K	Decrease	U/K	Decrease	U/K	<i>Culled CNR</i> <i>Caught</i>	Contractors(M)	14	<b>10</b> 70%AWO 30%M
<b>Cro</b>	Vol	-	V	Tatt Mchp	No	U/K	Increase	U/K	Increase	40% U/W 30%N/O 29%Lost	<i>Caught</i>	Vet. Hygiene Services	30	<b>10</b> 70%AWO 30%M
<b>Den</b>	Com	£25	G	Tatt Mchp	Yes	600,000	Constant	0	Constant	-	-	-	-	N/S
<b>Est</b>	Vol	40 Euro	M	Tag Tatt Mchp	No	30,000	Constant	U/K	Constant	50%U/W 30%Lost 10%Roam	<i>Caught</i>	Municipality	14	<b>9</b> 100%M
<b>Fin</b>	Vol	-	KC	Tag Tatt Mchp	NO STRAYS	500,000	Increase	U/K	Constant	90%Lost 5%Roam 5%U/W	<i>Caught</i>	Contractors(M)	15	<b>200</b> 90%CO 10%AWO
<b>Ger</b>	Com	-	AWO	Tag Tatt Mchp	Yes	5.3 million	Increased	NO STRAYS	Constant	65% U/W 20%Lost 5%Roam	<i>Caught</i>	Municipality AWO Police	21	70%AWO 20%M 5%CO 5%VA
<b>Gre</b>	Com	50 Euros	VA	Tag Mchp	No	U/K	Constant	U/K	Constant	-	<i>CNR</i>	Municipality AWO	-	-
<b>Hun</b>	Com	-	M	Tag Tatt Mchp	No	2 million	Increased	U/K	Constant	50%U/W 35%N/O 10%Roam 5%Lost	<i>Caught</i>	(Municipality) Dog wardens	14	<b>60</b> 75%AWO 15%M 10%P
<b>Ire</b>	Com	12.70 Euros	M	Tag Mchp	No	1.5 million	Constant	U/K	Decrease	40%Roam 40%U/W 10%Lost	<i>Caught</i>	Dog warden (M)	5	<b>25</b> (strays) 75%M 25%AWO
<b>Ita</b>	Com	0 – 10 Euros	VS	Mchp	No < 30%reg	2.8 million	Constant	U/K	Constant	Roam U/W	<i>Caught CNR</i>	Contractors(M)	60	U/K

**Com:** Compulsory; **Vol:** Voluntary; **VD:** Veterinary Department; **M:** Municipality; **G:** Government; **V:** Private Veterinary Practice; **VA:** Veterinary Association; **AWO:** Animal Welfare Organisation; **LA:** Local Authority; **CO:** Commercial Organisation; **KC:** Kennel Club; **Tag:** Tag placed on a collar; **Tatt:** Tattoo; **Mchp:** Microchip; **U/K:** Unknown; **N/S:** Not Stated; **Culled:** Dogs are killed in the “field”; **Caught:** Dogs are caught and held at facilities before rehoming or euthanasia **CNR:** Captured, Neutered and then Released; **N/O:** Dogs that were Never Owned; **Roam:** Dogs found Roaming; **U/W:** Dogs unwanted and abandoned; **Lost:** Dogs that are lost, but owned; **P:** Privately Owned; **O:** Other

**Table 6 (ctd):** Stray dog control in Europe

Country	Licensing/ Registration			ID	Help to reduce strays?	Population figures				Source of strays	Methods of stray control	Responsibility for strays	Strays kept (d)	Shelters
	Com/Vol	Cost	Run			National Estimates	Trends	Strays Estimates	Trends					
<b>Lith</b>	Com	2 GBP	CO M	Tatt Mchp	No	350,000	Constant	U/K	Constant	92%Roam 5%Lost 2%N/O 1%U/W	<b>Caught</b>	Shelters	3 - 10	40%M 30%AWO 30%CO
<b>Malta</b>	Com	1 Maltese Lira	G	Tag Tatt Mchp	No	U/K	Increase	U/K	Constant	-	<b>Caught CNR</b>	AWO	7	<b>5</b> 100%AWO
<b>Moldova</b>	Vol	0	M, VA	Tatt Tag	Yes	U/K	Increase	U/K	Increase	U/K	<b>Culled Shot Poison</b>	Municipality	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Neth</b>	No	-	-	N/S	-	1.8 million	Increase	No strays	Constant	75%Lost 25%U/W	<b>Caught</b>	Municipality	14	<b>100</b> 47%O 43%AWO
<b>Nor</b>	Vol	10 Euros	CO	Mchp	Yes	414,000	Increase	No strays	Constant	U/K	<b>Caught</b>	Dog warden (M)	14	<b>30</b> 100%AWO
<b>Pol</b>	Com	-	AWO M CG	Tag Tatt Mchp	No	6 -7 million	Increase	75,000 (U/W & strays)	Increase	U/K	<b>Caught</b>	Municipality	-	<b>142</b> 55% M 30% AWO 15% CO
<b>Port</b>	Com	20 Euro	G M	Tag	No	-	Constant	500,000	Constant	U/K	<b>Caught</b>	Municipality	8	<b>40</b> 100%AWO
<b>Serb</b>	Com	-	AWO CO M	Tatt Mchp	Yes	800,000	Increase	U/K	Increase	58%Lost 31%U/W 10%Roam	<b>CNR Caught</b>	Municipality	5	<b>45</b> 50%M 30%CO 20%AWO
<b>Slov</b>	Com	0	G	Mchp	Yes	260,000	U/K	U/K	U/K	U/K	<b>Caught</b>	Shelters	30	<b>11</b> 73%O 18%AWO 9%M
<b>Spa</b>	Com	6 – 30 Euros	M	Tag Mchp	No	U/K	Increase	U/K	Constant	70%U/W 20%Lost	<b>CNR Caught</b>	Contractors(M)	10 - 20	<b>300</b> 80%AWO 20%O
<b>Swe</b>	Com	70 SKr	G	Tatt Mchp	Yes	950,000	Increase	U/K	No strays	-	<b>Caught</b>	Municipality Police	7	<b>200</b> 100%AWO
<b>Swit</b>	Com	40 – 400CHF	G	Tatt Mchp	Yes	480,000	Increase	No strays	Constant	--	-	-	-	<b>284</b> 100%AWO
<b>Ukr</b>	Com	30 Cent/month	M	-	No	U/K	U/K	500,000 Killed annually	Constant	15%Lost 5%Roam 70%N/O	<b>Culled Poison Shot</b>	Municipality	0 - 7	<b>10</b> 30%AWO 70%O
<b>UK</b>	Vol	-	CO LA	Tag Mchp Tatt	-	6.8 million	Decrease	105,201	Decrease		<b>Caught</b>	Dog wardens Police	7	100%AWO

**Com:** Compulsory; **Vol:** Voluntary; **VD:** Veterinary Department; **M:** Municipality; **G:** Government; **V:** Private Veterinary Practice; **VA:** Veterinary Association; **AWO:** Animal Welfare Organisation; **LA:** Local Authority; **CO:** Commercial Organisation; **KC:** Kennel Club; **Tag:** Tag placed on a collar; **Tatt:** Tattoo; **Mchp:** Microchip; **U/K:** Unknown; **N/S:** Not Stated; **Culled:** Dogs are killed in the “field”; **Caught:** Dogs are caught and held at facilities before rehoming or euthanasia **CNR:** Captured, Neutered and then Released; **N/O:** Dogs that were Never Owned; **Roam:** Dogs found Roaming; **U/W:** Dogs unwanted and abandoned; **Lost:** Dogs that are lost, but owned; **P:** Privately Owned; **O:** Other

## **b) National stray dog population**

Surprisingly, only one of the respondents reported that the numbers of stray dogs were collected and monitored nationally in their country. Since, 2000, the chief veterinary inspector of Poland has annually reported the number of unwanted dogs and cats entering animal shelters either as strays or relinquished by their owners (Appendix 1.1.6).

All but four countries (Poland, Portugal, Ukraine and the United Kingdom) failed to provide an estimate on the numbers of stray dogs in existence. Six (20%) countries reported increases in their stray dog population over the last five years (Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Moldova, Poland and Serbia), whilst the remainder reported no change ( $N=17$ : 57%) and decreasing numbers respectively ( $N=3$ : 10%; Bulgaria, Ireland, United Kingdom). It should be noted that no change in stray numbers was reported by those countries both successful (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland) and unsuccessful (Azerbaijan Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine) at controlling stray dogs

### **3.3.1.ii. Source of stray dogs**

Thirteen countries (43%) provided estimates of the source of stray dogs in their countries. However, because of the lack of objective, centrally collected census data in any of the countries these estimates should be interpreted with care. Only three countries (10%) reported that the majority of captured stray dogs had never been owned; Albania, Azerbaijan Republic; 99%, Ukraine; 70%. The remainder ( $N=12$ : 40% countries), reported with varying degrees, the contribution that owned dogs made to captured populations be they; owned dogs but not under close control of an owner or caretaker, genuinely lost, or intentionally dumped (no longer wanted).

### **3.3.1.iii. Methods of stray dog control**

Dogs were culled (shot) in five countries (17%) (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan Republic, Moldova and Ukraine) by municipal hired contractors, as a method of choice for stray control. However, this approach clearly did little to reduce stray numbers, indeed in all countries where this practice was undertaken the numbers of stray dogs had increased. One country exclusively practiced catch, neuter, release of dogs (Greece). This approach was reported to be problematic because it appeared to result in owners “dumping” their dogs in areas “where they knew they would be looked after”. A further five countries (17%) (Bulgaria, Malta, Italy, Serbia and Spain) operated catch, neuter, release in a limited number of locations, although the reasons for this were unclear, as were the problems encountered when adopting this approach.

In twenty-one countries (70%) the principal method of stray control was to catch dogs found not to be under the close control of an owner at the time of capture. Statutory holding periods for the dogs that have been captured varied greatly from country to country; the median number of holding days was 12 (range 3 – 60 days). This approach necessitates some form of short or long term housing facility. In all instances animal shelters were operating in these countries, although short term housing in veterinary accommodation was used in one country (Croatia). Nevertheless countries that operate a catching policy for strays did vary in their adoption of euthanasia protocols for captured dogs (c Section 3.4).

### **3.3.2. Cats**

#### **a) Licensing and registration**

Compulsory registration for cats was reportedly low, and present in only five countries (17%) (Table 7). In addition seven countries (23%) had a voluntary scheme in operation. No respondents reported that registration systems were successful in reducing stray numbers.

#### **b) Identification**

In common, with dogs, microchipping was the most popular method of identification, as reported in nineteen countries (63%), although this was not always accompanied by wearing a collar and tag ( $N=7$  countries) (Table 7).

### **3.3.2.i. Population trends**

#### **a) National cat population**

There was a lack national census surveys of owned cats; no country collected data on the numbers and trends of cat ownership. However, fifteen countries (50%) did record estimates of owned cat populations (Table 7). In general cat ownership has increased over the last five years across eighteen European countries (60%), there were no reports of a decrease in numbers and in seven counties (23%) the numbers of owned cats remained constant.

#### **b) National stray population**

Unsurprisingly, numbers of stray cats were never monitored. Furthermore, all respondents failed to estimate the number of stray cats in their country. Therefore changes in stray populations should be interpreted with care, because they are based on the subjective perceptions of the group completing the questionnaire. Based on the information provided by respondents none of the twenty-nine European countries have adopted successful strategies that have lead to a reduction in the numbers of stray cats.

### **3.3.2.ii. Source of stray cats**

Sixteen countries (53%) were unable to give estimates for the source of stray cats. However, eight countries (27%) reported that the majority of stray cats were presumed to be the previous generation of strays i.e. they had never been owned.

### **3.3.2.iii. Methods of stray cat control**

Cats were culled (shot, poisoned) in seven counties (23%) (Albanian, Armenia, Azerbaijan Republic, Bulgaria, Croatia, Moldova and the Ukraine) by municipality contractors. Belgium and Greece were the only countries to exclusively practice catch, neuter, release (CNR) in an attempt to control stray cats. However, the majority of countries were reported to use a combination of methods; mainly CNR in conjunction with catch and remove to an animal shelter depending upon the animals' suitability for re-homing ( $N=10$ : 33%). Six countries (20%) caught stray cats, and did not practice CNR or culling (Portugal, Norway, Lithuania, Germany, Estonia and Belarus).

**Table 7:** Stray cat control in Europe

Country	Licensing/ Registration	ID	Population figures				Source of strays	Methods of stray control	Responsibility for strays
			National Trends	Estimate	Stray Trends	Estimate			
<b>Alb</b>	No	Mchp	U/K	Increased	U/K	Increased	Majority -N/O	<b>Culled</b>	Hunters/City hall
<b>Arm</b>	No	-	20,000	Increased	U/K	Increased	-	<b>Culled</b>	Municipality
<b>Az. Rep</b>	No	-	U/K	Increased	U/K	Increased	99% N/O	<b>Culled</b>	Municipality
<b>Bela</b>	No	-					60% Roam 20% U/W 10% Lost 10% N/O	<b>Caught</b>	Municipality
<b>Belg</b>	Vol	Tag Tatt Mchp	2.3 million	Increased	U/K	Increased	-	<b>CNR</b>	AWO
<b>Bos-Her</b>	Com	Tag Mchp	U/K	U/K	U/K	U/K	-	-	-
<b>Bul</b>	No	-	U/K	Increased	U/K	Increased	-	<b>Culled</b>	Municipality
<b>Cro</b>	No	Mchp	U/K	Increased	U/K	Increased	50% Roam 30% U/W 10% Lost 10% N/O	<b>Culled</b> Poison <b>CNR</b> <b>Caught</b>	Vet. Hygiene Services
<b>Den</b>	Vol	Tatt Mchp	750,000	Increased	U/K	Constant	-	<b>CNR</b> (low no's)	-
<b>Est</b>	No	Tag Tatt Mchp	50,000	Constant	U/K	Constant	70% N/O 15% U/W 10% Roam 5% Lost	<b>Caught</b> (low no's)	Municipality
<b>Fin</b>	Vol	Tag Tatt Mchp	500,000	Constant	U/K	Constant	40% U/W 25% Lost 25% Roam 10% N/O	<b>Culled</b> Shot Euthanized <b>Caught</b>	Municipality
<b>Ger</b>	Vol	Tag Tatt Mchp	7.5 million	Increased	U/K	U/K	55% U/W 30% Lost 20% Roam 5% N/O	<b>Caught</b>	AWO Municipality
<b>Gre</b>	No	-	U/K	Constant	U/K	Constant	-	<b>CNR</b>	AWO
<b>Hun</b>	No	Tag Tatt	3 million	Increased	U/K	Constant	60% U/W 25% N/O 10% Roam 5% Lost	<b>CNR</b> <b>Caught</b>	Municipality
<b>Ire</b>	No	Tag Mchp	U/K	U/K	U/K	U/K	-	<b>CNR</b> <b>Caught</b>	AWO
<b>Ita</b>	No	-	U/K	Constant	U/K	Constant	V. High Roam High U/W	<b>CNR</b> (small no's)	Municipality
<b>Lith</b>	Com	Tatt Mchp	U/K	Constant	U/K	Constant	70% N/O 24% Roam 5% Lost 1% U/W	<b>Caught</b>	AWO (Contractors) Municipality

**Com:** Compulsory; **Vol:** Voluntary; **AWO:** Animal Welfare Organisation; **Tag:** Tag placed on a collar; **Tatt:** Tattoo; **Mchp:** Microchip; **U/K:** Unknown; **N/S:** Not Stated; **Culled:** Cats are killed in the “field”; **Caught:** Cats are caught and held at facilities before rehoming or euthanasia **CNR:** Captured, Neutered and then Released; **N/O:** Cats that were Never Owned; **Roam:** Cats found Roaming; **U/W:** Cats unwanted and abandoned; **Lost:** Cats that are lost, but owned

**Table 7 (ctd.):** Stray cat control in Europe

Country	Licensing/ Registration	ID	Population figures				Source of strays	Methods of stray control	Responsibility for stray control
			National Estimates	Trends	Stray Estimates	Trends			
<b>Malta</b>	No	-	U/K	Increased	U/K	Constant	-	<b>CNR Caught</b>	AWO
<b>Mold</b>	Vol	Tag Tatt	U/K	Increased	U/K	Increased	-	<b>Culled Shot Poison Euthanized</b>	Municipality Hunters
<b>Neth</b>	No	Tag Mchp	3.3 million	Increased	U/K	Increased	30% Lost 30% N/O 25% Roam 15% U/W	<b>Culled Shot CNR Caught</b>	MOP  AWO
<b>Nor</b>	Vol	Tatt Mchp	535,000	Increased	U/K	Increased	-	<b>Caught</b>	Animal shelters Police
<b>Pol</b>	No	Tag Tatt Mchp	7 million	Increased	U/K	Decreased	-	<b>CNR Caught</b>	Municipality
<b>Port</b>	No	-	500,000	Constant	U/K	Constant	-	<b>Caught</b>	Municipality Veterinary Authorities
<b>Serb</b>	Com	Mchp	750,000	Increased	U/K	Increased	60% Lost 25% Roam 14% U/W 1% N/O	<b>CNR Caught</b>	Municipal animal control
<b>Slov</b>	No	Mchp	U/K	Constant	U/K	Constant	-	<b>CNR Caught</b>	AWO/shelters
<b>Spa</b>	Com	Tag Mchp	U/K	Increased	U/K	Increased	55% N/O 40% U/W 2% Roam 3% Lost	<b>CNR Caught</b>	Contractors (municipality)
<b>Swe</b>	Vol	Mchp	1.6 million	Increased	U/K	U/K	-	<b>Culled Caught</b>	Police Municipal Hunters Animal welfare Inspectors
<b>Swit</b>	No	Tag Tatt Mchp	1.5 million	U/K	U/K	Constant	-	<b>CNR Caught</b>	AWO
<b>Ukrain</b>	Com	-	U/K	U/K	U/K	Constant	15% Lost 5% Roam 5% U/W 70% N/O	<b>Culled Shot Poison Euthanized</b>	Municipality
<b>UK</b>	No	Tag Mchp	9.8 million	Increased	U/K	U/K	-	<b>CNR Caught</b>	AWO

**Com:** Compulsory; **Vol:** Voluntary; **AWO:** Animal Welfare Organisation; **Tag:** Tag placed on a collar; **Tatt:** Tattoo; **Mchp:** Microchip; **U/K:** Unknown; **N/S:** Not Stated; **Culled:** Cats are killed in the “field”; **Caught:** Cats are caught and held at facilities before rehoming or euthanasia **CNR:** Captured, Neutered and then Released; **N/O:** Cats that were Never Owned; **Roam:** Cats found Roaming; **U/W:** Cats unwanted and abandoned; **Lost:** Cats that are lost, but owned



### **3.4. EUTHANASIA**

Three countries (10%) (Germany, Greece and Italy) (Table 8) did not permit the killing of healthy stray dogs, requiring them to be kennelled for life if they are unable to be re-homed, or in the case of Greece re-released, after neutering. In countries where euthanasia was permitted it was cited as a population control measure ( $N=14$ : 47% countries). Seven countries (23%) euthanatized all captured strays; three countries performed this immediately upon capture, whilst four countries culled any animals that remained unclaimed after the statutory holding period.

All groups reported that euthanasia was permitted and undertaken on humane grounds if the animal was showing signs of disease or injury. In animal shelters, lethal injection, was used to kill strays, this was without exception conducted under the guidance of a veterinary surgeon. Nevertheless, eight questionnaire responses did not state the chemical agent used to perform euthanasia. The remainder reported that an overdose of barbiturate was used ( $N=13$ : 43% countries). Yet in six countries (20%) the curariform-like chemical, T 61 was the agent of choice, worryingly in three of these countries the use of a sedative or pre-anaesthesia agent was not reported prior to induction.

### **3.5. NEUTERING**

Eighteen (60%) out of the thirty countries surveyed had some form of subsidized neutering scheme (Table 9), offered to people on low incomes or people with a large number of animals. However, the majority of schemes were available to owners who were resident at specific locations and were not therefore, in operation nationwide. In most instances it was animal welfare organisations that provided this service to owners.

### **3.6. OWNER EDUCATION**

Responsible pet ownership education programmes were run in nineteen countries (63%), however this varied greatly from region to region depending upon the animal welfare organisation running the scheme. Only, six groups reported that educational campaigns had helped to reduce the number of strays. Four reported that a change in owner attitude had resulted in stray reduction; with a further two reporting that owners were more likely to get their pets neutered after particular campaigns. However, in most instances animal welfare organisations did not directly measure the success of educational campaigns in achieving stray reduction. An exception to this was a WSPA member society operating in Hungary, who had monitored the number of strays and found a reduction in their numbers following education programmes aimed at local school children in particular districts.

It is not surprising that groups were not able to report that educating owners resulted in lowered stray dog numbers. The majority of education programmes outlined in the questionnaires were run by animal welfare groups relying solely on donations to fund their work. This inevitably leads to sporadic campaigns and disparities between regions as nationwide programmes are expensive to run. Furthermore, the effect of such educational programmes upon owners may not be seen immediately. Invariably there's a lag between organisations delivering education to owners and the impact that this has on the numbers of stray dogs in the local area.

**Table 8:** Euthanasia of stray dogs and cats in Europe

Country	Is it legal to euthanatize strays?	Method of euthanasia	Use of chemical restraint or sedation	Performed by	Reasons for euthanasia
<b>Albania</b>	Yes	Shooting Barbiturate T 61	- Xylazine Ketamine	Hunters/city hall Veterinarians	Population control Diseased
<b>Armenia</b>	Yes	-	-	-	-
<b>Azer. Republic</b>	Not stated in legislation	-	-	-	-
<b>Belarus</b>	Yes	T 61	No	Veterinarians	Population control Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Belgium</b>	Yes	Lethal Injection	No	Veterinarians	Diseased
<b>Bosnia- Herze</b>	Yes	Shooting Not stated	- -	Hunters/dog catchers -	Any dogs not claimed after 3 days
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Yes	Lethal injection	No	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Croatia</b>	Yes	Poison bait (cats) Lethal injection	- Sedalin gel tablets	Municipality Veterinarian	Feral cats Not claimed or homed Injured, Diseased Aggressive
<b>Denmark</b>	Yes	Barbiturate	-	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive, Not re-homed
<b>Estonia</b>	Yes	Lethal injection	Cylatan Getamin D 61	Veterinarian	All animals not reclaimed or re-homed after 14 days Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Finland</b>	Yes	Shooting (cats) Barbiturate	- Yes	Hunters Veterinarian	Diseased Severely injured, Aggressive
<b>Germany</b>	Not for healthy animals	Lethal injection	Yes	Veterinarian	Diseased Severely injured, Aggressive
<b>Greece</b>	Not for healthy animals	Barbiturate	For fractious or aggressive animals ACP Rompun	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Hungary</b>	Yes	T 61	Yes	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Ireland</b>	Yes	Barbiturate	No	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Italy</b>	Not for healthy animals	T 61	Not always ACP Ketamine	Veterinarian	-
<b>Lithuania</b>	Yes	Shot (rabies outbreak) Barbiturate	- No	Hunters Veterinarian	No room for dogs Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Malta</b>	Yes	Barbiturate	Xylazine Ketamine	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive

**Table 8 (ctd.):** Euthanasia of stray dogs and cats in Europe

Country	Is it legal to euthanize strays?	Method of euthanasia	Use of chemical restraint or sedation	Performed by	Reasons for euthanasia
<b>Moldova</b>	Yes	Shooting Poisoning Electrocution Gassing Lethal Injection	No	Veterinarian Collection workers	All captured animals
<b>Netherlands</b>	Yes	Lethal injection	Sometimes	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Norway</b>	Yes	Barbiturate	-	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Poland</b>	Yes	Barbiturate	-	Veterinarian	Diseased, Old, Injured, Aggressive
<b>Portugal</b>	Yes	Lethal injection Electrocution	-	Veterinarian Shelter staff	Not homed, Diseased Injured, Aggressive
<b>Serbia</b>	Yes	Barbiturate T 61	Sometimes	Veterinarian Shelter staff	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Slovenia</b>	Yes	T 61	Sometimes	Veterinarian	Diseased, Severely injured Aggressive Not homed after 30 days
<b>Spain</b>	Not for healthy animals in some autonomous communities	Barbiturate	Yes	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Sweden</b>	Yes	Lethal injection	-	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive
<b>Switzerland</b>	Yes	Barbiturate	Sometimes	Veterinarian	Diseased, Injured Aggressive, Behaviour Not homed
<b>Ukraine</b>	Yes	Shooting Poisoning Barbiturate Magnesium Sulphate Potassium Chloride	No	Collection workers Veterinarian	All animals collected
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Yes	Barbiturate	Sometimes	Veterinarian Shelter staff	Diseased, Severely injured Aggressive, Behaviour* Not homed* <i>* dependent upon the organisation that operates the shelter</i>

**Table 9:** Subsidized neutering schemes in operation and pet owner education programmes

Country	Subsidized neutering	Operated by	Beneficiaries	Early age neutering	Education - Pet ownership	Run by	National/ Regional
<b>Albania</b>	No	-	-	Yes D (small no's)	Yes	VA	Regional
<b>Armenia</b>	No	-	-	No	No	-	-
<b>Azer. Republic</b>	Yes	V	-	No	No	-	-
<b>Belarus</b>	Yes	AWO	Low income	No	No	-	-
<b>Belgium</b>	Yes C	CG	Stray/feral cats	No	-	-	-
<b>Bosnia – Herze</b>	No	-	-	No	Yes	AWO	Regional
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Yes	M, AWO	-	Yes	No	-	-
<b>Croatia</b>	Yes	AWO, V	Low income	Yes	No	-	-
<b>Denmark</b>	No	-	-	No	Yes	AWO, VA	Regional
<b>Estonia</b>	Yes	AWO	-	Yes	Yes	AWO, M, DC	Regional
<b>Finland</b>	No	-	-	No	Yes	AWO	Regional
<b>Germany</b>	No	-	-	Yes C and D	Yes	AWO, DC, M	National Regional
<b>Greece</b>	Yes	AWO	Low income	No	Yes	AWO	Regional
			Lots of animals				
<b>Hungary</b>	Yes	AWO, VA	Low income	Yes C and D	Yes	AWO	Regional
			Regional location				
<b>Ireland</b>	Yes	AWO	Benefits	No	Yes	AWO	Regional
<b>Italy</b>	Yes – region trials	V	Low incomes	Yes (small no's)	Yes	AWO, V	Regional
<b>Lithuania</b>	Yes	AWO, M, VA	-	No	Yes	AWO, M	Regional
<b>Malta</b>	No	-	-	Yes C (small no's)	Yes	AWO	Regional
<b>Moldova</b>	Yes	AWO	Regional location	No	No	-	-
<b>Netherlands</b>	No	-	-	No	Yes	AWO	National
<b>Norway</b>	Yes	M, VA, AWO	-	-	No	-	-
<b>Poland</b>	Yes	M, CG, AWO	Low income	No	Yes	M, CG, AWO	National
			Regional location				
<b>Portugal</b>	No	-	-	No	No	-	-
<b>Romania</b>							
<b>Serbia</b>	Yes	M, AWO	Low income	Yes	Yes	AWO	National Regional
			Lots of animals				
<b>Slovenia</b>	Yes	M, AWO, V	Low income	No	Yes	AWO	Regional
<b>Spain</b>	No	-	-	No	No	-	-
<b>Sweden</b>	No	-	-	No	No	-	-
<b>Switzerland</b>	Yes	AWO, VA	Low wages	No	Yes	CG, M, AWO	National
<b>Ukraine</b>	No	-	-	Yes C and D (v. small no's)	Yes	AWO	Regional
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Yes	AWO, LA	Low income	No (except some Pedigree cats*)	Yes	AWO, LA	Regional Nationwide

**AWO:** Animal Welfare Organisations, **V:** Private Veterinary Clinics, **VA:** Veterinary Associations, **CG:** Central Government, **M:** Municipalities, **LA:** Local Authorities, **DC:** Dog Clubs, **C:** Cats only, **D:** Dogs only, \* Some breeds of pedigree cats may be neutered early prior to leaving the breeder.

### 3.7. CHARACTERISTICS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SURVEYED AND THEIR APPROACHES TO STRAY DOG CONTROL

Characteristics of stray control	Countries	Elements of stray control			
		Legislation	Registration & licensing	Typical approach to 'dealing' with strays	Assisted neutering & owner education
Good stray control	Belgium	Good national legislation regarding animal welfare, breeding and selling pets, stray collection and management:	Except Norway and Finland, registration or licensing system is enforced and reliant upon designated identity system; microchip or tattoo preferred as permanent identification of the dog.	Caught and short term holding to allow dog identification and reclamation by the owner.	Exception of Switzerland; no subsidized neutering programmes for owners;
Reportedly no stray dogs	Denmark			Longer term re-homing of strays through a system of animal shelters.	however in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Germany dogs are not routinely neutered – owners are responsible for good control of their dogs preventing uncontrolled breeding.
	Finland			With the exception of Germany, unclaimed strays can be euthanatized if they cannot be homed i.e. they are not kennelled for life.	
	Germany			Good cooperation between AWO's and municipal authorities.	
	The Netherlands				
	Norway				
	Sweden	- well enforced by local authorities.	Annual license renewed at a cost to the owner (except Sweden).		
	Switzerland (N=8: 27%)	- adhered to by citizens.			
		Additional municipal legislation regarding leash laws, control areas and prohibited areas for dogs: - prevents "latch key dogs"/free-roaming dogs.			All countries have established owner education programmes operating at regional level.
<b>Additional comments: Respondents report owners are socially responsible, demonstrated through adhering to statutory requirements for dog ownership. Non-owners and members of the public act quickly to remove loose dogs permitting their owner to be located quickly. Dogs are kept under close control of the owner. High proportion of pedigree dogs relative to mongrels (crossbreeds); controlled breeding balances supply with demand preventing the over production of dogs. Pedigree dogs obtained at considerable cost to the owner – prevents them being "disposed" of?</b>					
Low numbers of strays	Slovenia (N=1: 3%)	Progressive legislation updated existing laws from FYR. Progressive legislation on shelters, stray collection and permanent identification of dogs. Introduction of municipal legislation: leash laws in most public areas.	Compulsory registration. All dogs born after 2003 are micro-chipped for free with first rabies vaccination. Central register with veterinary administration.	Caught and held in shelters or by vets before re-homing (if suitable), good uptake of dogs from shelters for re-homing. 1 shelter to serve each municipality. Unwanted dogs are likely to be voluntarily relinquished to shelters rather than "dumped". Good cooperation between veterinarians, municipality and AWO's.	Municipalities run twice yearly neutering schemes for owned dogs at low cost to their owners. All animals are neutered at shelters; do not re-home entire, sexually mature animals. Increasing owner education programmes run by AWO's and the Kennel club.
<b>Additional comments: Owning dogs is not particularly popular in Slovenia, although it is on the increase. Traditionally low numbers of strays even when part of the FYR. WSPA member society reports that dog owners are socially responsible complying with statutory regulations and keep dogs under close control. Good, widespread network of shelters serving the community. Owners are more likely to obtain dogs from animal shelters because they have been neutered, inoculated and permanently identified with a microchip. Low demand for pedigree dogs; member society reports that owning a pedigree is not necessarily considered socially acceptable.</b>					
Gradually improving situation	UK, Ireland (N=2: 7%)	Good national legislation and local authority bye laws.	Licensing in Ireland but abolished in UK	Caught and held for a minimum statutory period (7 days) before	Neutering schemes for pet owners on low incomes and

		Designated dog wardens involved in animal collection. Leash laws and dog prohibited areas operating in some local authorities.	Voluntary registers with local authority dog wardens (collar and tag), national microchip register. No permanent identification method specified in the legislation in either country.  Licensing not always enforced in Ireland?	being passed on to re-homing centres.  Large network of animal shelters exclusively run by AWO.  Good cooperation between local authority dog wardens and animal shelters.	means tested benefits appear to be relatively successful in reducing surplus of dogs. Schemes are run by AWO and local authority dog wardens so despite regional variations there's good national coverage. Good network of owner education programmes promoted by AWO, local authority dog wardens and veterinary practitioners.
Not improving  On-going problems with stray dogs	Bosnia - Herzegovina Bulgaria Croatia Estonia Greece Hungary Italy Lithuania Malta Poland Portugal Serbia Spain (N=13: 43%)	All countries have general legislation relating to animal welfare and animal abandonment. Legislation is poorly enforced. Limited or vague legislation on breeding, sale and pet ownership - almost never enforced. Specific legislation relating to strays and stray collection present in all but 2 countries.	All but 3 countries have compulsory registration or licensing for dogs. Poor enforcement and adherence in all instances. Permanent means of identification (microchip, tattoo) only specified in 5 countries, but not checked or enforced by authorities.	Dogs mostly caught by municipal contractors. Varies in the number of animal shelters that serve municipal regions: predominantly run by AWO that may be poorly funded.  Poor cooperation between agencies (with the exception of Poland)?	With the exception of 2 countries all run assisted neutering schemes; predominantly by AWO, a few municipalities and veterinary associations - wide regional variations for owners on low incomes, costly for AWO to run these schemes - limited operations.  Seven countries have AWO's that run owner education programmes; regional variations in each country, limited scope and impact in reducing strays (except Hungary).
<b><i>Additional comments: The over production of dogs has not been addressed. Poor enforcement by the authorities does not encourage owners to follow regulatory requirements relating to licensing or registration of their dogs. Owners are not discouraged from letting their dogs roam or encouraged to neuter their pets.</i></b>					
Worsening stray situation  Uncontrolled	Albania Armenia Azerbaijan Republic Belarus Moldova Ukraine (N=6: 20%)	National legislation is limited. Non existing or poorly enacted municipal legislation relating to breeding and sale of dogs and collection of strays. Poor enforcement and adherence to legislation when it is present.	No registration or licensing with exception of Belarus and Ukraine (although this is not enforced or adhered to).  No specified identification system, currently poor voluntary identification of owned animals.	Strays are typically culled; shot in the field or caught and euthanized. Very small numbers of animal shelters serving the community, none are involved in stray control.	Limited number of subsidized neutering schemes in 4 out of the 6 countries. Limited responsible owner education schemes in 2 out of the 6 countries; no evidence from those countries that these are effective measures.
<b><i>Additional comments: Lack of government or local authority coordination or responsibility beyond the culling of strays. Culling is an ineffective control measure as the numbers of stray dogs has not been reduced in any of these countries. No attempt to control the source of the stray problem.</i></b>					

### **3.8. COMPARISONS TO THE PREVIOUS STUDY UNDERTAKEN IN 1999**

The present study (appendix 1.1.3) was based on a questionnaire used by the RSPCA (appendix 1.1.4) in 1999. Although modified and with requests for additional information the two remained similar in scope, on core stray issues. This enabled a direct comparison of results between the two surveys conducted seven years apart. In 1999, RSPCA International affiliates operating in seventeen countries responded (appendix 1.1.5); ten of these groups also provided information for the current survey.

#### **3.8.1. Changes in legislation**

Two of the countries surveyed; Belarus and Bulgaria have subsequently improved their animal welfare and stray legislation at the municipal level since 1999. However, this doesn't appear to have resulted in a reduction in the number of strays and probably reflects the authority's lack of enforcement in both countries.

Moldova has updated its national animal welfare legislation, but has failed to address the control of stray dogs via the legislative process.

The most significant legislative changes have occurred in Estonia. When surveyed in 1999, Estonia did not have any animal welfare or animal protection legislation nor additional articles on stray control, pet ownership and the sale or breeding of dogs. This has subsequently been addressed by the government; laws relating to animal welfare and animal protection have been enacted. Similarly, specific articles on stray control have come in to effect. Despite these changes, the numbers of owned and stray dogs have remained constant over the last five years. However, this may reflect the lag time between the initial enactment of legislation and putting in place the necessary structure to enable enforcement; that will result in a measurable impact on stray numbers.

#### **3.8.2. Changes in compulsory registration or licensing of dogs and dog identification**

In the 1999 survey, four countries did not have either voluntary or compulsory registration for dogs (Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania and Moldova). Lithuania and Hungary have subsequently adopted compulsory registration within the intervening years. However, this is not consistently followed by owners nor is it reliably enforced by the either the Hungarian or Lithuanian authorities.

The use of an implanted microchip has without a doubt increased as a means of permanent dog identification; this now exceeds ear marking with a tattoo and the placement of an identity tag placed on the dog's collar.

#### **3.8.3. Responsibility for stray control**

After reviewing the questionnaire responses there appears to be a general trend towards municipalities being cited as responsible for stray collection and processing. The questionnaire did not specifically request information regarding how municipalities met their obligations towards straying dogs. However it was apparent in some instances that municipalities contract "hygiene companies" to act on their behalf in the collection and containment of loose dogs.

### **3.9. CASE STUDIES: Examples of successful control**

Obtaining historical information that would enable the researcher to chart countries' progression towards successful stray dog control proved exceedingly difficult. Both Sweden and Switzerland in particular have had a long history of good stray control and consider themselves to be free of stray dogs. This has certainly been the case within recent memory. Indeed there is little or no reference to an overwhelming stray dog population in the literature. Member societies, veterinary associations and other parties found it difficult to answer historical questions, it was impossible to construct a time line of initiating events that corresponded to reducing stray numbers. Hence each case study includes an account of the current situation and approaches adopted within that country. The subjective view points and opinions of the participating member societies have been reflected, whilst it is important to appreciate this information should be interpreted with caution, it provides an insight to the situation as perceived by people involved in enacting stray control.

#### **3.9.1. SLOVENIA**

##### **3.9.1.1. The situation in Slovenia**

Slovenia has low numbers of stray dogs. Even when it formed part of the Yugoslav Republic (FYR) the member society reports that stray numbers were low. This appears to be in contrast with its neighbours. The reasons for these differences are not recorded in the Slovenian literature and are open to speculation.

##### **3.9.1.2. Legislation**

Over the last ten years Slovenia has enacted four pieces of legislation that are fundamental to its good control of stray dogs. In 1995 an article of criminal law was enabled to outlaw animal cruelty. This was followed in 1999 by the Protection of Animals Act which was more extensive than the 1995 anti cruelty article, and included restrictions on the sale of animals, the prohibition of animal abandonment, guidance on euthanasia, and outlining the responsibility of the owner to take necessary steps to care for their animals.

In 2002, the Protection of Animals Act was supplemented by Animal Shelter Regulations, which decrees each municipality's responsibility to operate an animal shelter directly, or if this is not possible to contract another organisation to house unwanted dogs. The regulations stipulate that there should be one shelter operating per municipality region containing 800 registered dogs. This regulation replaces the old FYR law requiring veterinary clinics to take in dogs that are found straying in the community.

The Regulation for Pet Animals' Welfare was enacted by the Slovenian parliament in 2005. These regulations outline who can own a pet and their responsibilities towards the animals that they own, and it prohibits their abandonment. In addition to ownership responsibilities, it aims to control the supply of pets; prohibiting breeders from breeding their dogs more than once per year, although this is specifically aimed at, and is more easily enforced, for commercial breeders it also applies to dog owners. It updates some aspects of the Pet Animals Act (1999). These additional regulations prohibit the sale of animals in open markets, on the streets, via door to door sales, at public events, and make it illegal to give animals away as prizes. Furthermore the importation of pedigree dogs is tightly controlled and enforced by customs officers. Moreover, national veterinary legislation prohibits owning large numbers of dogs (>5 dogs) unless notifying the authorities as to why that number of animals is being kept.

A more recent addition to the legislation in Slovenia is at the municipal level with a growing number adopting "leash laws"; prohibiting the loose running of owned dogs in public areas. These dog control regulations have actively discouraged owners from letting their dogs out without being supervised (i.e. becoming "latch-key-dogs").



### **3.9.1.3. Registration and licensing**

Slovenia has a compulsory dog registration system. Moreover, it is a legal requirement for all dogs born after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2003, to be microchipped. The microchip is implanted for free by veterinarians when dogs/puppies are inoculated against rabies for the first time. Details of the animal and their owner are recorded on to a central database, maintained by the veterinary administration at the Ministry of Agriculture. This database performs two functions; firstly it allows the veterinary administration to issue recalls when rabies vaccination boosters are due each year and secondly it permits dogs with microchips to be readily re-united with their owner should they go missing and subsequently become found. This system is effectively enforced, as rabies vaccination is a legal requirement in Slovenia, any missed vaccinations are followed up by the authorities. Consequently it is a legal requirement for owners to notify the authorities of changes in ownership and contact details within seventy-two hours.

### **3.9.1.4. Responsibility for strays**

Prior to the enactment of the 2002 Animal Shelter Regulations, all veterinary clinics had a couple of cages designated for receiving, holding and observing (for rabies) dogs found wandering without an owner. This was a long standing piece of rabies control legislation inherited from the former Yugoslavia; it decreed that any dogs found roaming should be swiftly removed by the authorities from public areas and taken to local veterinarians.

Animal shelters (either run by municipalities or contracted to animal welfare organisations) are responsible for taking in found dogs. They are kept for a minimum designated holding period and if they are not claimed by their owner they are neutered and put forward for re-homing. The designated holding period for dogs is 30 days; this is extended to 90 days if the animal is pregnant or nursing puppies. All dogs, within twenty-four hours of entering the shelter, are examined by a veterinarian, vaccinated and treated for parasites. A microchip is implanted within 8 days of the dogs' arrival. Owners reclaiming their dogs are charged a boarding fee of 15 Euros per day, plus the cost of vaccination.

### **3.9.1.5. The owned dog population**

Dog ownership per se, is not particularly popular in Slovenia; this was the case prior to its independence from Yugoslavia. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the number of owned dogs is increasing.

Cross-breeds or mongrels make up a high proportion of the owned dog population in Slovenia. There may be a number of potentially influencing factors that have lead to this trend in dog demographics. The member society reports the general public consensus that purchasing purebred dogs is undesirable from an ethical standpoint and it is more attractive to adopt dogs from shelters because they have been neutered, microchipped, vaccinated and treated for intestinal and external parasites.

### **3.9.1.6. Origins of the “stray” dog population**

Despite having a central dog register, operated by the veterinary authority this does not involve monitoring the number of stray dogs found and reunited with their owners each year. Thus estimates of stray numbers and identification of the source of stray dogs are not available. In the member society's opinion the numbers of stray dogs is relatively low and has remained constant over the last five years. Individual shelters that house dogs, keep records of the numbers of dogs that they receive each year, the number that they re-home and the number that they euthanatize. However the source of the dogs entering the shelters (found vs voluntarily handed over by their owner) isn't generally noted. The numbers of stray dogs that have subsequently been reclaimed by their owners also remain unrecorded. Nevertheless, in Ljubljana, 93% of dogs are homed from the shelter and 7 – 8% are euthanatized (note there is

no distinction between the number of dogs reclaimed by their owner and the number of dogs re-homed).

### **3.9.1.7. Additional factors**

#### **a) Neutering**

Bitches are more likely to be neutered than male dogs. Although estimates of the percentage of dogs that are neutered are not available, the member society reports that a high percentage of sexually mature females are neutered and the number of dogs castrated is increasing year on year. It should be noted that the cost of neutering is relatively high; for example it costs approximately 200 euros to spay a large female dog (e.g. German Shepherd) through a private veterinary clinic.

Although there is no nationally operating reduced cost neutering scheme, a large number of municipalities run twice yearly schemes, that they subsidise and owners can have their pets neutered at greatly reduced cost. All dogs in animal shelters are neutered prior to re-homing, with the exception of very young animals; whose adopters are issued with a neutering voucher permitting them to return the dog to the shelter at a later date for neutering at no extra charge.

Veterinary practitioners working in rural regions run mobile clinics at certain times of the year; they actively publicise the need for annual rabies vaccination and promote the routine neutering of pets during their clinics. This activity is supported by the veterinary administration of the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### **b) Responsible pet ownership education**

Responsible pet ownership education programmes are run by volunteers from animal welfare organisations, however public donations to fund this work are small and this limits their capacity to operate nationally.

Animal shelters play a large part in educating new owners; by law they have a duty to inform owners about their responsibilities towards their new pet. Shelters require adopters to sign a “contract” agreeing to provide their pet with the appropriate care and conditions to safeguard the animals’ welfare. In addition, should the owner become unable to care for the dog in the future they are obliged to return the dog to the shelter for re-homing, and in practice this is what people actually do.

### **3.9.1.8. Concluding remarks**

Inheriting a relatively small stray dog problem, in combination with a continued commitment from veterinary authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture has resulted in a well controlled, sustainable and containable situation. Slovenia has rapidly enacted progressive legislation, which is enforced and it has an efficient national system for dealing with found dogs. Furthermore, the overwhelming impression formed from talking to the member society is that Slovenians appear particularly socially responsible, most owners follow the law, and despite a number of municipality’s adopting leash laws, dogs that are owned but permitted to roam have never been particularly problematic. Moreover, the member society reports that owners are more likely to relinquish dogs that they no longer want to an animal shelter rather than abandoning them. This is facilitated by the large number of animal shelters, distributed throughout Slovenia that serve the community. The controlled breeding of dogs together with low demand for dogs (because they are not particularly popular in Slovenia) prevents their over production.

### **3.9.2. SWEDEN**

#### **3.9.2.1. The situation in Sweden**

Sweden has a good national record of dog licensing and registration. This approach towards dog control was adopted alongside rigid quarantine laws in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century to control the spread of rabies (Carding, 1969).

#### **3.9.2.2. Legislation**

Sweden's Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Welfare Ordinance both enacted in 1988, outline animal welfare provisions and it prohibits animal neglect, abandonment and cruelty. It outlines basic provisions concerning animal management, husbandry and treatment, and requires breeders to be licensed.

Municipal legislation is mainly concerned with the enforcement of dog control laws, typically; leash laws, dog prohibited areas and dog fowling.

Animal shelters are not governed via national legislation; they are exclusively run by non government organisations and are self regulated.

#### **3.9.2.3. Registration and licensing**

It is a legal requirement in Sweden for dogs to be registered and permanently identified from four months of age. Since 2000, identification by way of a microchip is preferred over marking with an ear tattoo. Dogs must be registered with the Swedish authorities within four weeks of being transferred to a new owner, regardless of whether the dog has been obtained from a breeder within Sweden or imported from abroad. The cost of registration is approximately 70 SKr and implantation of a microchip costs 150 SKr.

The Swedish Police in conjunction with animal welfare inspectors (Durskyddsinspektoremas Riksforening: DIRF) and veterinary practitioners work together, checking that dogs are identified and registered.

#### **3.9.2.4. Responsibility for strays**

Dogs found loose in public places are quickly removed either by vigilant members of the public, by the police or they are collected by animal welfare inspectors (equivalent to dogs or community wardens). The police may house dogs overnight before passing them on to animal shelters for the remainder of the statutory period (7 days). Owners are charged a boarding fee if their dog is housed overnight. However most owners are re-united with their dogs within a couple of hours of them being found, because they are readily identifiable from a tattoo or microchip.

#### **3.9.2.5. The owned dog population**

Sweden's owned dog population is estimated at 950,000 dogs, this has increased over the last five years. Approximately ninety percent of owned dogs are pure breeds and they are obtained directly from a breeder (Egenvall *et al.*, 1999), they are expensive to buy and represent a considerable financial investment for owners. The majority of breeders operate on a small scale and are controlled through legislation and voluntary codes of practice outlined by the Swedish Kennel Club.

Dog ownership is more common in rural or semi-rural areas than in large cities (Egenvall *et al.*, 1999), and the majority of people who own dogs do so for companionship rather than for utility or working (Sallander *et al.*, 2001). Dogs are considered members of the family by Swedish owners and they therefore occupy a high status in society, this attitude stops owners from readily abandoning their pets (Personal Communication, Swedish

veterinary association). Furthermore owning more than one dog is uncommon in Swedish society (Egenvall *et al.*, 1999).

In the event that owners cannot look after their dogs because they have a change in circumstances they relinquish the dog directly to an animal shelter. Animal shelters are numerous (150 – 200) and widely distributed across Sweden.

#### **3.9.2.6. Origins of the “stray” dog population**

There are no stray dogs in Sweden, only dogs that have become loose, and are therefore at the time of being found are not accompanied by their owners. Over ninety percent of dogs are reunited with their owners within twenty-four hours of being collected by the authorities.

#### **3.9.2.7. Additional factors**

##### **a) Neutering**

The routine neutering of dogs of either sex is uncommon in Sweden, less than seven percent of bitches and four percent of male dogs are neutered (Egenvall *et al.*, 1999). Consequently there are no subsidized neutering schemes operating in Sweden.

##### **b) Responsible pet ownership education**

The kennel club runs owner education programmes, offering advice on responsible pet ownership, dog regulations and requirements, and provide prospective owners with breed specific information.

#### **3.9.2.8. Concluding remarks**

There is an enormous commitment by the Swedish people and authorities for strict dog control and an impressive degree of social responsibility where dog ownership is concerned. Owners readily comply with the law. Furthermore the high investment and status of dogs within Swedish households means that they are not readily disposed of or abandoned. Responsible ownership and enforced leash laws mean that animals, that aren't neutered do not breed uncontrollably.

### **3.9.3. SWITZERLAND**

#### **3.9.3.1. The situation in Switzerland**

Switzerland has a long history of legislation and registration practices to control stray dogs. Historically, regional (cantonal) veterinary offices, the police and animal shelters have worked together to catch and re-home any dogs found wandering without an owner. This has certainly been the case in recent memory (50 – 60 years). In common with the preceding case study countries, there is no reference to an overwhelming stray dog population in Switzerland, and it is unclear whether the need for stray control also originated out of the need to eradicate rabies. However, Switzerland has been declared rabies free since 1998 and it is no longer a legal requirement for dogs to be vaccinated against rabies unless they are travelling abroad.

#### **3.9.3.2. Legislation**

Switzerland has general provisions for animal welfare as outlined in the 1971 Animal Protection Law and the Animal Protection Ordinance (1981). Both items of legislation are

due for revision in 2007 and 2008, and will become more progressive with regard to animal breeding and dog protection.

Dog keeping and breeding is becoming more extensively regulated, although this is conducted at the cantonal level and does lead to regional differences in the regulations. For example in Geneva, it is compulsory for all dogs to be leashed and muzzled in public thus opportunities for free-running exercise and interaction with other dogs is severely restricted which is a potential welfare concern.

Official guidelines on the breeding of dogs emphasizes the need to breed animals free from genetic diseases and aggressive behavioural traits. Professional breeders have to be licensed and keep detailed breeding records.

The commercial pet trade is regulated in the Swiss legislation and dogs and cats are prohibited from being sold in pet shops.

Animal shelters have to be registered and inspected by the cantonal veterinary office to ensure they reach the required welfare standard.

#### **3.9.3.3. Registration and licensing**

Dog registration and payment of annual dog taxation has been mandatory for decades. Each cantonal district sets the threshold for taxation (ranges from 40 – 400 CHF), and it is disproportionate with an increasing number of dogs that an owner keeps. This system of punitive dog taxation is designed to discourage people from owning more than one dog.

In 2007, it will become compulsory for all dogs in Switzerland to be microchipped. At the time of writing (December 2006), eighty percent of dogs were already chipped. The chip number and necessary owner/animal information is entered onto a central database run by the Animal Identity Service (ANIS). Although this service is provided by a private company, it is officially recognized by all of the Swiss cantonal authorities. The cost of the microchip and implantation on average is 70 CHF (range 60 – 300 CHF).

Switzerland has a long history of diligent enforcement of registration and licensing; fines are issued and collected from people with un-registered dogs.

#### **3.9.3.4. Responsibility for strays**

The police, game wardens or animal protection organisations are responsible for collecting dogs found wandering without an owner. However, in most cantonal districts this responsibility is most often undertaken by animal welfare organisations. Animal shelters are numerous and they are run exclusively by animal welfare charities rather than municipalities. The statutory holding period for stray dogs is two months; until this period has expired a dog is still considered the property of the original owner. Although the animal can be placed for adoption before the end of the two month statutory period, the new owner has to agree to return the dog should its original owner come forward.

#### **3.9.3.5. The owned dog population**

Currently, the dog population in Switzerland is estimated at 480,000 animals; this has increased by 100,000 dogs over the last ten years. An estimated seventy-five percent of owned dogs are pure breeds, and approximately one third of male dogs are castrated and half of all female dogs are spayed (Horisberger *et al.*, 2004). Furthermore, vaccination against rabies is no longer compulsory and only around fifty percent of dogs are vaccinated against; canine distemper, leptospirosis, parvovirus, parainfluenza and hepatitis (Personal communication; Waiblinger, 2006).

#### **3.9.3.6. Origins of the “stray” dog population**

Eighty to one hundred percent of found dogs are returned to their owners; the majority of dogs have become accidentally separated from their owner or they are genuinely lost. Any

animals not reclaimed by their owner can be re-homed (subject to their suitability), although it is legal to euthanatize healthy animals.

#### **3.9.3.7. Additional factors**

##### **a) Neutering**

Routine neutering of owned dogs is not extensively undertaken in Switzerland, although thirty-three percent of males and fifty percent of female dogs are neutered there is no incentive to have animals neutered via reductions in the annual dog tax. Restrictive dog ownership and enforced leash laws control against accidental matings. Moreover, owners are required by law to avoid uncontrolled reproduction of their pets

Subsidized neutering schemes, run by animal welfare charities operate across Switzerland, for owners who are in receipt of social benefit.

##### **b) Responsible pet ownership education**

Switzerland has well established owner education programmes, operating across all of its cantonal regions. In addition all dog owners will be required by federal law to attend courses in dog behaviour, dog obedience and responsible ownership. This owner education will take place in two stages; people wanting to keep a dog will be required to pass a theoretical course prior to taking the dog on. This will be followed by a practical training course undertaken within a year of obtaining the dog. The cantonal veterinary office endorses these courses for owners and there is a reduction in annual dog tax for those owners that have completed their training.

#### **3.9.3.8. Concluding remarks**

Switzerland's cantonal districts have a long standing commitment and are diligent in enforcing dog registration and taxation; as a consequence the majority of owners follow the rules.

The punitive taxation system discourages owners from keeping more than one dog, this in addition to strictly controlled dog breeding laws means the over production of dogs does not occur.

Switzerland is moving towards ever more restrictive dog practices through federally enacted dog control legislation, this appears to be related to concerns over aggressive behavior and dog attacks on people. Indeed, Switzerland is unique in its legal requirement for all dog owners to be educated in dog behaviour, training and responsible pet ownership.

### **3.9.4. UNITED KINGDOM**

#### **3.9.4.1. The situation in the United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom (UK), unlike Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland, no longer has a mandatory national system for dog registration or licensing. Indeed the dog license was abolished by the government twenty years ago. (c. section 3.9.4.3.) Moreover, the UK still continues to deal with a sizeable number of stray dogs each year (>100,000 dogs), although their numbers are gradually decreasing (c. section 3.9.4.6.).

#### **3.9.4.2. Legislation**

Table 10 gives an overview of the relevant legislative controls that may impact on stray dog control in the UK.

**Table 10:** UK legislation relating to dog ownership and control

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Overview</b>
The Dogs Act (1906, amended 1928)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives statutory responsibility to the Police for the seizure of stray dogs.</li> <li>- Permits members of the public to apprehend stray dogs provided that they report it to the police.</li> <li>- Makes it an offence to abandon dogs.</li> </ul>
<b>*Protection of Animals Act (1911):</b> 9 amendments to this Act to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provisions of animal welfare.</li> <li>- Becomes an offence to cause unnecessary suffering.</li> </ul>
The Control of Dogs Order (1930)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legal requirement for dogs to wear a collar with a disc that clearly displays the owners name and address.</li> </ul>
<b>*Pet Animals Act (1951)</b> and the Breeding and Sale of Dogs Welfare Act 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Controls the sale of dogs through pet shops and other commercial practices.</li> </ul>
<b>*Abandonment of Animals Act (1960)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Becomes an offence for owners of an animal to abandon it without good reason in circumstances likely to cause unnecessary suffering.</li> </ul>
<b>*Animal Boarding Establishments Act (1963)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local authorities responsible for inspection and licensing of boarding establishments, applicable in some instances to animal shelters.</li> </ul>
<b>*The Breeding of Dogs Act (1973 amended 1999)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulations relating to breeding dogs.</li> <li>- Commercial breeders require a license.</li> <li>- Prohibits commercial breeders from breeding from bitches aged &lt; 1year and &gt; 7 years.</li> <li>- Brood bitches shall have no more than 1 litter per year and no more than 6 litters in her lifetime.</li> </ul>
Dangerous Dogs Act (1991 amended 1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prohibits the breeding and sale of 4 specific breeds; Pit Bull Terrier, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa – considered to be aggressive breeds.</li> <li>- Muzzling and leash restrictions can be imposed on dogs considered to be dangerous.</li> <li>- Also makes it an offence for dogs to be dangerously out of control in a public place (this covers all dogs).</li> </ul>
The Environmental Protection Act (1990)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enables Local Authorities to put into place additional dog control by-laws, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement to keep dogs on a lead</li> <li>To ban dogs from certain areas altogether</li> <li>Require owners to remove dog faeces in certain areas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act (1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dog control by-law.</li> <li>- Permits local authorities to designate land (poop-scoop zones) on which it becomes an offence if the person walking the dog fails to remove the dogs faeces.</li> <li>- Gives local authorities the power to issue fixed penalties to people breaching the by-law.</li> </ul>
The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives Local Authorities the power to introduce dog control areas and to issue fixed penalty notices for breach of those local regulations, this means that the local authority does not have to undertake court proceedings against owners, which is both time consuming and costly.</li> <li>- Dog control by-laws can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog prohibited areas</li> <li>Leash laws</li> <li>Restriction on multiple dogs walking</li> <li>“Poop-scoop” zones</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Sole responsibility for the seizure &amp; receipt of strays will pass to local authorities rather than Police – NOTE this has yet to come into force.</li> </ul>

### 3.9.4.3. Registration and licensing

Licensing became mandatory for dogs in 1878 but this was revoked by the British Government in 1987. During its requirement, reported estimates of the number of owners actually licensing their dogs was less than fifty percent (Carding, 1969, Hughes, 1998). In 1987, the Government considered that the license was ineffective at controlling stray dogs and costly to administer, and it was abolished (Hughes, 1998). However it should be noted that although licensing was mandatory for dogs in the Britain for 110 years, it was poorly enforced by the authorities and therefore ineffective in helping to control stray dogs. At the time of its termination, the license fee was a nominal £0.37p, and differential licensing fees have never been used to discourage dog ownership or act as an incentive for responsible pet ownership e.g. reductions in the license fee offered for neutered animals.

Nevertheless, within two years abolishing the dog licensing system the Government issued a consultation paper entitled the “Control of Dogs”, in response to increasing public concern regarding irresponsible dog ownership; the apparent nuisance of so called “latch-key dogs”, problems with dog fouling and an increasing number of dog attacks on people (Hughes, 1998). However, it resisted calls for a mandatory registration scheme to be put into place and instead, through the Environmental Protection Act (1990), required that all local authorities appointed an officer dedicated to the collection of stray dogs. Furthermore this piece of legislation gave local authorities the power to enforce existing legislation (The Control of Dogs Order, 1930) that all dogs should wear a collar with a tag clearly displaying their owners name and address. Moreover, there remains a lack of commitment from the government to have a national, mandatory dog register and other than wearing a collar and tag there are no specific legal propositions for dogs to be permanently identified via a tattoo or implanted microchip<sup>1</sup>.

However, microchip identification of dogs is increasingly popular with owners and is consistently endorsed by veterinary practitioners, local authority dog wardens and animal welfare charities. The cost of having a dog microchipped varies; dog wardens, may offer this service for just £10.00, whereas private veterinary clinics implanting microchips that also contain a thermo chip (displays the dog’s temperature reading along with the chip number when scanned) charge around £30.00 and animal re-homing centres implanting microchips for all animals entering their care may or may not pass this charge on to the new owner in the their adoption fee. The microchip number, owner and animal details are registered on to computer database, this is operated by a commercial company, nationally, and any authorized individual can contact the call centre to report a found dog with an implanted microchip so that its owner can be identified. The company does not require an annual registration fee from owners to maintain their details on the database, only a nominal administration fee is charged to amend their details should this become necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> It is a legal requirement for dogs travelling abroad as part of the pets passport scheme, to be implanted with a microchip.

**NOTE: The Animal Welfare Act (2006) comes into force in 2007. This new piece of legislation will consolidate and modernize Acts marked (\*):**

**Brief overview of the new act:**

- Places “duty of care” on owners; becomes an offence for owners who do not take reasonable steps to ensure the needs of an animal are met to the extent required by good practice – Needs are based upon the five freedoms.
- Enables preventative action to take place before suffering can occur.
- The Act will be supplemented for the first time for companion animals with Codes of Practice for their housing and care.



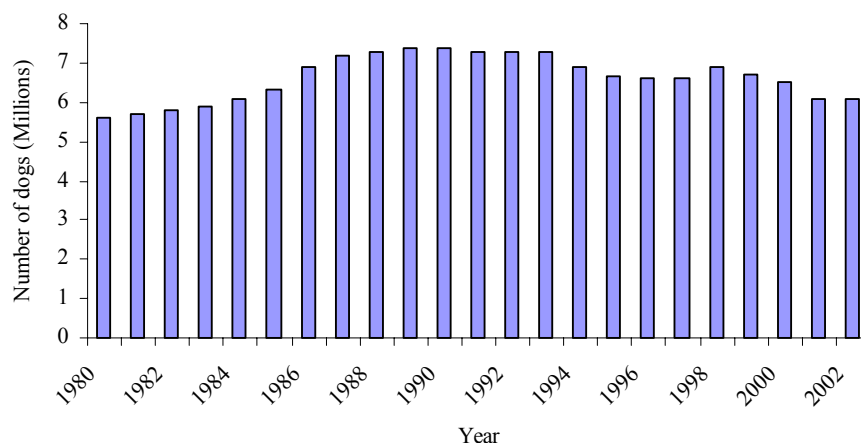
#### 3.9.4.4. Responsibility for strays

The Dogs Act (1906) gives the Police the power of seizure and disposal of stray dogs. By law stray dogs must be held for seven days to enable the owner to reclaim them before they can be re-homed or destroyed. Carding, writing in 1969, reports that the Police pass on stray dogs to animal shelters for housing for the statutory holding period. Furthermore, the duties for responding to members of the public's reports of stray dogs and their collection at this point were almost exclusively carried out by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Inspectorate. Government activity was insignificant in the control of stray dogs; housing, re-homing and the destruction of stray animals, was undertaken by animal welfare organisations who at that time were also bearing the financial burden for this work (Carding, 1969).

In 1990 the Environmental Protection Act, was enabled and required local authorities to appoint so called "dog wardens". These nominated persons are responsible for the collection of stray dogs and they respond directly to calls from members of the public and reports from the Police. Dogs are collected; where possible returned to their owners, if not they are kenneled. Local authorities have arrangements with private boarding kennels or animal shelters to accommodate, stray dogs up to seven days. The local authority pays a kenneling fee to cover the costs of housing dogs for the statutory period. After, seven days if dogs have not been reclaimed by their owner, they can be placed in to the care of an animal welfare organisation for re-homing, or they can be euthanatized. Owners reclaiming their dogs are charged a fee. It should be noted that the Police remain ultimately responsible accepting stray dogs from members of the public outside of dog warden working times (9 – 5pm Monday to Friday). However, the Clean Neighborhoods and Environment Act (2005) will in due course give sole responsibility for the receiving and handling of stray dogs to local authority dog wardens.

#### 3.9.4.5. The owned dog population.

Before, 1980 reliable estimates of the number of dogs in the UK were not collated; dog numbers in the 1970's were thought to be around 12 million. Since 1980, the Pet Food Manufacturers Association (PFMA) has annually reported estimates of dog numbers in the UK and these can be viewed in Figure 1. Since annual reporting began in 1980, dog numbers peaked in the early 1990's to 7.5 million. Numbers have continued to decline since then and the estimated UK dog population currently stands at 6.1 million (PFMA, 2002). The PFMA, estimates that seventy-seven percent of owned dogs are pure breeds and twenty-three percent are mongrels (cross breeds).



**Fig. 1.** Pet Food Manufacturers Associations (PFMA) estimates of the number of owned dogs in the UK.

### **3.9.4.6. Origins and numbers of the stray dog population**

#### **i) Historical perspective**

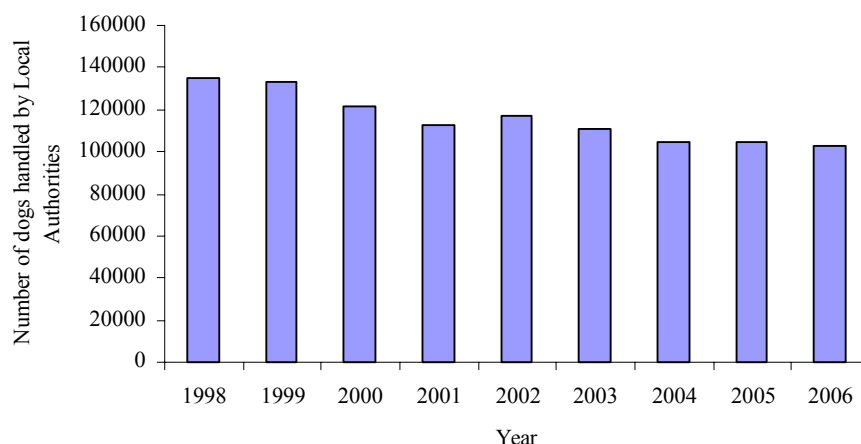
Finding historical data that accurately details the numbers and source of stray dogs in the UK, in common with the other case studies, has proved difficult; this type of information clearly went unrecorded and received very little government and public attention. A paper written by Carding in 1969, giving an overview of the significance and dynamics of the stray dog population in the UK reported that the RSPCA was receiving 300,000 unwanted dogs a year, there was no distinction between dogs collected as strays and those handed over by their owners. At the time of writing, Carding (1969) reported that the situation was continuing to worsen and considerable numbers of stray dogs were being dealt with by animal welfare organisations with no government intervention to help tackle the cause of the problem.

The overwhelming factors contributing to the problem at that time were the uncontrolled reproduction and roaming of pets. The veterinary profession was not united in its recommendations for the routine neutering of dogs, indeed some considered it to be unethical (Carding, 1969). Furthermore, it was common for dogs to be unrestrained for periods of time being permitted to roam by their owners. The police rarely prosecuted owners who persistently allowed their dogs to stray and hence there was no incentive for owners to alter their behaviour. Furthermore, because licensing and identification of dogs was poorly adhered to by owners (as a result of poor enforcement by the relevant authorities), reuniting dogs with their rightful owners was exceedingly difficult. This was compounded by a significant minority of owners, not making an effort to trace their dogs when they did not return home.

Between 1973 and 1976 the RSPCA observed a dramatic drop in the number of unwanted animals coming in to its care. There was a decrease of approximately 130,000 animals over the two year period (Personal communication; Bowles, 2006). Although the number of unwanted animals being housed by the RSPCA has continued to decline, and in 2005 the figure stood at just below 75,000, it has never observed such a dramatic drop since the mid 1970's. It is unclear what factors initiated this dramatic fall or whether it followed an equally dramatic fall in the numbers of owned dogs in the UK.

#### **ii) The last 20 years**

Since 1998, the Dogs Trust has undertaken an annual survey of local authorities regarding the numbers and fate of stray dogs that they collected (Figure 2). There has been a gradual decline in the numbers of stray dogs that local authorities seize (24% decrease from 1998 to 2006), a marginal increase in the proportion of those seized dogs that are subsequently homed and a 64% reduction in the numbers that are euthanatized. In 2006, six percent of stray dogs were euthanatized (Dogs Trust). The national dog wardens association (NDWA) estimates the percentage of dogs returned to their owners in 2003 was approximately fifty-four percent, a six percent increase when compared to previous years, which NDWA attributed to the increased use of permanent means of dog identification such as microchip and tattoo.



**Fig 2.** The number of stray dogs being seized by local authority dog wardens in the UK.  
Source Dogs Trust: Surveys conducted on behalf of the Dogs Trust by NOP.

If we take into account the observations of Carding, published in 1969, that entire, free-roaming pets were the largest contributing factor to the stray problem, we might surmise that the gradual decrease in stray numbers processed by local authorities may also be due to an increase in the number of dogs being neutered and a decrease in the number of dogs permitted to roam. Indeed, the first dog wardens that were attached to the environmental health department of the City of Dundee district council in 1981 found exactly that. During the 1980's the Dundee dog wardens were responsible for the collection of stray dogs. However, for the first ten years that this service was in operation, merely collecting stray dogs did nothing to tackle to core problem and the wardens did not see a significant reduction in strays. Most strays were puppies and young dogs, suggesting that the problem lay with the over production of dogs. In response the council decided to implement a spaying scheme, whereby all bitches being re-homed from the council pound would be spayed (at the councils expense) prior to leaving. Furthermore, the council funded the cost of spaying bitches belonging to owners whose animals strayed and were subsequently reclaimed. In addition, the dog wardens, located bitches that were found to be repeatedly breeding and their owners were offered free sterilization operations for their dogs.

This subsidized spaying scheme was introduced by the council in 1989, ten years later (twenty years after the starting the dog warden service) the number of strays being collected had decreased by 60% and the number of dogs being destroyed by 90%\*.

### 3.9.4.7. Additional factors

#### a) Neutering

There are no published estimates of the proportion of dogs that have been neutered in the UK. However, there's certainly been a shift in the attitudes of veterinarians to the routine neutering of pets since Carding's (1969) publication. Indeed, owners are regularly advised on the potential long-term health benefits of neutering their pets, as well as the responsible pet ownership aspect. All sexually mature animals being re-homed from animal shelters are neutered prior to being placed in their new home. All sexually immature animals leave animal homes with a "neutering" voucher, entitling their owner to low cost neutering at a later date.

The majority of animal welfare organisations operate subsidized neutering schemes for owners who are in receipt of means tested state benefits or on low incomes. Local authorities, universally run subsidized neutering schemes that operate year round for owners on means tested benefit. The owner is issued with a voucher that entitles them to take their

\* Source: WSPA (1999), Dundee City Council (1998) personal communication.

pet for neutering at a participating veterinary practice, where the surgery is carried out a greatly reduced cost, this cost may be paid for entirely by the local authority (at no cost to the owner) or a portion of the cost may be borne by the owner e.g. £ 20 - £50.

#### **b) Responsible pet ownership education**

Animal welfare organisations have a long history of national campaigns and education programmes advocating responsible pet ownership. Moreover, local authority dog warden's work with communities to solve local stray dog issues; this is increasingly achieved through owner education and working with school children to promote responsible pet ownership.

#### **3.9.4.8. Concluding remarks**

The UK is unique by comparison to the three other case studies in that the government has no national strategy for reducing stray dogs; it considers stray dog issues to be the responsibility of local authorities (Hughes, 1989). Up until twenty years ago, the situation was entirely dealt with by animal welfare charities, which bore the cost associated with the capture, housing and euthanasia of stray dogs. Since 1990, all local authorities have appointed an officer responsible for stray dogs. A combination of approaches including: vociferous education of owners, encouraging and facilitating permanent identification of animals (via a microchip), and subsidising the routine neutering of pets, by animal welfare charities and local authority dog wardens alike appears to be having a positive impact on the numbers of stray dogs in the UK.

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**Appendix 1.1.1. Initial email contact to WSPA Member Societies and RSPCA International Affiliates**

Dear Member Society,

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International (RSPCA International) are writing a report on stray dogs and cats in Europe. We are interested in how each European country controls its stray animals. **We are asking Member Societies to help us with information by completing the questionnaire attached to this email.** The questionnaire is written as a Microsoft© Word Document.

**Please complete and return the questionnaire by MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006.** If you cannot reply by 09/10/06 please let me know. Any questionnaires returned after this date will still give us important information.

**\*IMPORTANT THERE IS A PRIZE TO BE WON\***  
**500 Euros worth of equipment will be given to the Member Society that sends back the best reply to the questionnaire before MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006.**

A copy of the questionnaire and a letter outlining the instructions for completing the questionnaire are attached to this email.

Thank you for your help with this study,

Yours Sincerely,

Louisa Tasker

**Appendix 1.1.2.** Letter to accompany questionnaire; sent as an email attachment

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006

Dear Member Society,

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals International (RSPCA International) are writing a report on stray dogs and cats in Europe. We are interested in how each European country controls its stray animals. **We are asking Member Societies to help us with information by completing the questionnaire attached to this email.** The questionnaire is written as a Microsoft© Word Document.

**\*IMPORTANT THERE IS A PRIZE TO BE WON\***

**500 Euros worth of equipment will be given to the Member Society that sends back the best reply to the questionnaire before MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006.**

**Translation**

If it would help you to fill in the questionnaire we can translate it into French, Greek, Russian and Spanish. Contact [louisatasker@wspa.org.uk](mailto:louisatasker@wspa.org.uk) to ask for translations.

**Answering the questionnaire**

The answers you give will provide us with important information.

It would be helpful if you could answer the questionnaire in English. However, if you can give more detailed information by answering the questionnaire in your own language please do so. We are able to translate your replies into English. You will be asked to answer the questionnaire by:

- **deleting the incorrect** answer(s) from the options given thereby leaving only the correct answer
- placing information into a table
- giving an answer in your own words

You will be asked for national information on stray dog and cat control, but this data may not exist in each European country. Therefore, we would also like you to include data based upon the figures that you record in your society. Tell me which source of information you have used e.g. is it based on national or member society statistics.

**Returning the questionnaire**

**Please complete and return the questionnaire by MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2006.** If you cannot reply by 09/10/06 please let me know. Any questionnaires returned after this date will still give us important information. Return the completed questionnaire as an email attachment to [louisatasker@wspa.org.uk](mailto:louisatasker@wspa.org.uk). You can also send your replies by post or fax to WSPA Headquarters in London.

**The report on stray dogs and cats in Europe**

Your organisation will be listed and thanked for taking part. If you do not want your details to be included in the report please let me know.

You will be able to see the report on the WSPA website when it is completed.

Yours faithfully,

Louisa Tasker

**Appendix 1.1.3. Questionnaire sent as an email attachment**

**Stray dog and cat control in Europe: WSPA/RSPCA Questionnaire**

Name of organisation:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email address:

\*\*\*\*\*

**1. LEGISLATION**

**Is there any legislation in your country on:** Is the legislation national or municipal?

**a. Animal welfare or animal protection including animal cruelty:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**b. Animal abandonment:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**c. Who can own a pet:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**d. How to keep and look after pets:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**e. Stray animals:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**f. Euthanasia:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**g. Animal shelters:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**h. Collection of stray animals:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**i. Dangerous dogs:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**j. Breeding of dogs and cats:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

**k. Sale of dogs and cats:** YES/NO National/Municipal  
Details:

Please give a brief summary or tell us who to contact for further information on the legislation.



## **2. REGISTRATION AND LICENSING**

**A) Is there a licensing or registration scheme in your country for *dogs*: YES/NO      *cats*: YES/NO**

**If No:**      - **Is there a new law in progress? Or being proposed for the future?** YES/NO  
Give details:

**If Yes:**      - **Is the registration scheme compulsory or voluntary?** Compulsory/Voluntary

- **Who runs it?**      Animal welfare organisation  
Commercial organisation  
Municipality  
Central Government  
Other: please specify:

- **How much does it cost to register or buy a licence?**

- **Does the owner have to renew the licence or registration each year?** YES/NO

- **Has registration worked in reducing the number of strays?** YES/NO

**B) How are dogs and cats identified?**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
Identification tag worn on a collar	YES/NO	YES/NO
Tattoo	YES/NO	YES/NO
Microchip/Identichip	YES/NO	YES/NO
Other (please specify)	YES/NO	YES/NO

## **3. DOG AND CAT POPULATION**

**A) What is the estimate of the dog and cat population in your country?**

*dogs:*      *cats:*

**B) Over the last five years, has the number of dogs and cats; increased, decreased, remained constant?**

*dogs:*      *cats:*

## **4. NEUTERING**

**A) Is there any subsidised neutering scheme in your country?** YES/NO

**If Yes:**      - **Who runs it?**      Animal welfare organisations  
Veterinary associations  
Municipality  
Central Government  
Other (please specify)

- **Who benefits from the scheme? e.g. people on low wages or people who live in a certain region/ location:**

**B) Is early age neutering done in your country for?**  
*dogs* YES/NO      *cats* YES/NO

## **5. SHELTERS**

**A) How many shelters are there in your country for dogs and cats?**

**B) What proportion (%) of shelters are run by:**

Central Government (%)
Municipalities (%)
Commercial organisations (%)
Animal welfare organisations (%)
Veterinary associations (%)
Other (please specify) (%)

## **6. STRAYS**

**A) Has the number of stray dogs and cats: increased, decreased or stayed the same over the last 5 years?**  
Please state for *dogs*:      *cats*:

**B) Does anybody monitor the number of stray dogs and cats in your country? YES/NO**

**C) What percentage of stray dogs and cats that are captured are:**

*If you are able to supply data from your society as well as national information please include this in your answer. Tell me which information is based on national figures and which is from your society. Record your answer in the table.*

	<b>Cats</b>	<b>Dogs</b>
- Lost but owned by someone (%)		
- Owned by someone, but allowed to roam (%)		
- Unwanted and abandoned by their owner (%)		
- Were never owned and have always roamed free (%)		

**D) Under the law, how long is a found dog or cat allowed to be kept before being re-homed or destroyed?**  
*dogs*      *cats*

## **7. CONTROL OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS**

**A) How is the stray dog or cat population controlled in your country?**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
Animals are <i>not</i> caught; but <i>culled or killed</i> in their environment	YES/NO	YES/NO
Animals are <i>caught</i> , held until they are <i>neutered</i> and then <i>released</i>	YES/NO	YES/NO
Animals are <i>caught</i> and held at facilities before <i>re-homing or euthanasia</i>	YES/NO	YES/NO

**B) What methods are used to catch stray dogs and cats?**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
Nets	YES/NO	YES/NO
Sacks	YES/NO	YES/NO
Capture poles	YES/NO	YES/NO
Snares	YES/NO	YES/NO
Traps	YES/NO	YES/NO
Anaesthetic dart	YES/NO	YES/NO
Other (please specify):	YES/NO	YES/NO

**C) Who is responsible for catching stray dogs and cats?**

**D) Do they get trained in catching and handling methods? YES/NO**

**If Yes:** - Give brief details of training courses and state who operates them:

**E) Who is responsible for keeping stray dogs and cats when they are found?**

**F) Catch, Neuter, Release**

*If you are able to supply data from your society as well as national information please include this in your answer. Tell me which information is based on national figures and which is from your society. Record your answer in the table.*

**i) How are dogs and cats neutered/sterilized?**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
Surgery	YES/NO	YES/NO
By chemical methods (give details)	YES/NO	YES/NO

**ii) How long are dogs and cats held after neutering before being released?**

**iii) Where are dogs and cats released after they have been neutered?**

**iv) Are there any problems with controlling stray dogs and cats using “catch, neuter and release”? YES/NO**  
(Please give details)

## **8. EUTHANASIA**

**A) Culling**

**- What methods are used to cull dogs and cats in their environment:**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
Poison bait (please specify)	YES/NO	YES/NO
Shooting	YES/NO	YES/NO
Other (please specify)	YES/NO	YES/NO

**- Who culls dogs and cats?**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
Members of the public/community	YES/NO	YES/NO
Municipality	YES/NO	YES/NO
Central Government	YES/NO	YES/NO
Other (please specify)	YES/NO	YES/NO

**B) Euthanasia at the holding facility or shelter**

**- What methods are used to euthanize stray dogs and cats at the holding facility or shelter?**

	<b>Dogs</b>	<b>Cats</b>
Gun	YES/NO	YES/NO
Captive bolt	YES/NO	YES/NO
Electrocution	YES/NO	YES/NO
Gassing	YES/NO	YES/NO
Lethal injection:	YES/NO	YES/NO
Barbiturate	YES/NO	YES/NO
T-61	YES/NO	YES/NO
Magnesium Sulphate	YES/NO	YES/NO
Potassium Chloride	YES/NO	YES/NO

**- Is chemical restraint or a sedative given prior to lethal injection?**

**If Yes – Please specify which:**

**C) Which animals are selected for euthanasia? e.g. old, diseased, injured, aggressive animals**

**D) Who performs euthanasia?** e.g. veterinarian, shelter staff, animal inspector, veterinary technician

## **9. OWNER EDUCATION**

**A) Are there any education programmes on responsible pet ownership in your country? YES/NO**

**If Yes:**

- Who runs them?	Central Government
	Municipalities
	Animal welfare organisations
	Other (please specify)

- are they run nationwide or are there regional differences?

- are there any examples where “responsible pet ownership” education has helped to reduce the stray dog or cat population? YES/NO

**If Yes** - Please give details:

## **10. FUTURE PLANS**

**If you know of any plans that are being proposed for stray dog and cat control in your country please give details:**

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

**Please give the source(s) of information you used to answer the questionnaire:**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Who else should we contact to get further information on stray dog and cat control in your country?  
(Please include their contact details)**

**DOG POPULATION AND CONTROL**

**A      Legislation**

What legislation is there on

- a. Stray animals
- b. Euthanasia
- c. Dog Control
- d. Shelters
- e. Collection of stray animals
- f. Dangerous dogs

Please give a brief summary or enclose the legislation. Is this national or municipal?

**B      Strays**

Under the law, how long is a found dog allowed to be kept before being rehomed or destroyed?

Who is responsible for keeping the dog?

Are there examples where the stray animal problem is being reduced?

**C      Neutering**

Is there any subsidised neutering scheme run in your country?

If 'yes': Who runs it?

- a. Animal welfare organisation
- b. Local/national government
- c. Other

Who qualifies for the scheme?

Are there examples of neutering where this has reduced the stray animal problem? Please give examples.

**D      Shelters**

How many shelters for dogs and cats are there in your country?

Of these, how many are run by:

- a. Local authorities
- b. Commercial organisations
- c. Animal welfare organisations

**E      Licensing and registration**

Is there a licensing or registration scheme in your country for:

- a. dogs
- b. cats

if 'no': Is a new law in progress?

If 'yes': Is this compulsory or voluntary?

Who maintains it?

- a. Animal welfare societies
- b. Commercial organisation
- c. Local or national government
- d. Other

How is the dog identified?

- a. Microchip
- b. Tattoo
- c. Identification tag

How much does it cost?

Does it work in reducing the number of strays?

## **F Population**

What is the estimated dog population in your country?

Over the last 5 years, has this number:

- a. Increased
- b. Decreased
- c. Remained constant
- d. Don't know

How many of the dogs in your country are estimated to be:

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| a. Strays | c. Pedigree |
| b. Owned  | d. Mongrel  |

Please indicate source of information:

**Appendix: 1.1.5. Results of RSPCA International postal survey of stray dog control practices in Europe, 1999**

COUNTRY	LEGISLATION					POPULATION AND CONTROL				SOURCE
	General/ Specific	Licensing/ registration	Means of ID	Responsibility for strays	Strays kept for	Estimated population	Stray problem*	Euthanasia	Shelters	
<b>Belarus</b>	Being developed	Mandatory -not maintained	ID Tag	Municipal authorities	1 day	No national figures, <i>Increasing</i>	5	No PBS. Dogs beaten/electrocuted	No numbers. Run by AW NGOs	Ratavanne Fenix
<b>Belgium</b>	National, specific	Mandatory	Tattoo/ M'chip	Shelter/zoo	15 days	No national figures	2	Legal	~ 60 - most run by AW NGOs	GAIA
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No AW law	No single programme	Collar with number	'The community'	15 days (never adhered to)	No national figures	5	No data	No data	National Foundation for the Protection of Animals
<b>Croatia</b>	Very limited, general	Annual-at the time of rabies vaccination	M'chip Tattoo in future	'Hygienic services' (dog-catchers)	30 days	~60,000	4	Permissible if sick, old, dangerous or an unclaimed stray.	2 both run by AW NGOs	Croatian Kennel Club, Slavonian-Baranian SPA
<b>Cyprus</b>	Specific, national law - not enforced	Old compulsory law - not maintained	ID Tag	Local Authorities	-	No national figures. Numbers <i>constant</i> .	4	Shooting, poisoning common means of destruction	4 run by AW NGOs	Animal Rescue Cyprus
<b>Czech Rep.</b>	National animal protection law	Mandatory	ID tag or M'chip	Local Authorities	5 days - 6 weeks	750,000-1million	4	Illegal except for terminally ill, very old or genetically malformed animals.	~90 of which ~40 commercial, remainder run by AW NGOs	Nadace
<b>Estonia</b>	Going to Parliament shortly.	Mandatory but not very well followed yet	M'chip and ID tag	Shelters	5-10 days	No reliable statistics, appears to be <i>decreasing</i> .	3	To be covered by new law.	8. 6 run by local authorities, 1 commercial, 1 run by a vet clinic.	University of Agriculture, Estonia
<b>Greece</b>	None Dangerous Dogs law is under discussion	Mandatory for dogs Not enforced	-	Local Authorities	-	No national figures <i>constant</i> 70% owned (pedigree) 30 % stray (mongrel)	4	Illegal for healthy dogs	Unknown Approx 16 shelters 15 AWO 1 LA	Greek Animal Welfare Fund
<b>Hungary</b>	Some outlined by laws	-	-	Local Authorities	14 days	No national figures 20,000 In Budapest	-	Legal	No national figures 1 in Budapest	RSPCA visit
<b>Ireland</b>	Legislation on strays, dog control,dangerous dogs	Mandatory ID	M/chp ID tag	Dog pound	5 days	1 million	-	No data	60: 25 – Local Authorities 25 - AWO	ISPCA
<b>Italy</b>	New law on euthanasia	Mandatory Since 1991 < 1/3 identified	M/chp	State vets	56 days	No figures	5	Illegal for healthy dogs Animals sheltered for life	No figures	Lega pro animale

**Appendix: 1.1.5 (ctd.).** Results of RSPCA International survey of stray dog control practices in Europe, 1999

COUNTRY	LEGISLATION					POPULATION AND CONTROL				SOURCE
	General/ Specific	Licensing/ registration	Means of ID	Responsibility for strays	Strays kept for	Estimated population	Stray problem*	Euthanasia	Shelters	
<b>Lithuania</b>	National legislation Regional differences	None Proposed by LiSPA	No Tattoo -L.KC	Local Authorities Or Hired companies	0 – 3 days	No figures	-	100% are euthanized Lethal inj Gas Electrocution	20 Private 10 Public 1 NGO	LiSPA
<b>Malta</b>	Some outdated national laws	Mandatory Not enforced	ID tag	AWO	6 days	30,000 <i>Constant</i>	4	Legal	1 AWO	Int. Animal Rescue
<b>Moldova</b>	No law	No	-	State Waste Dept	3 days	180,000 <i>Increasing</i>	5	No data	1	FAUNA
<b>Netherlands</b>	Animal Health and Welfare act	Keeping dogs and cats for prof. reasons	Tattoo M/chp	Local Authorities	14 days	1.6 million	-	Strays never destroyed	108 – all independent	NVBD
<b>Norway</b>	National legislation On DD and dog control	Voluntary scheme	M/chp	Varies between cities	3 days	250,000	1	legal	Many small shelters – run by individuals 7 - AWO	Dyrebeskyttels Norge
<b>Portugal</b>	National legislation No anti cruelty	Mandatory license	M/chp	Local Authorities	3 – 8 days	1.5 million Registered Double <i>Constant</i>	4	Legal and obligatory in municipal shelters	180 Municipalities	Liga Portugues dos Diteitos do Animal
<b>Romania</b>	General legislation	Scheme run by KC	Tattoo M/chp ID tag	Local Authorities	10 days	2.5 million <i>Decreasing</i>	-	Legal	14	DMUV Liuv Harbuz
<b>Slovak Republic</b>	National legislation Except DD	Mandatory Run by local Authorities	M/chp Tattoo ID tag	Local Authorities	5 – 28 days	360,000 – 400,000 <i>Constant</i>	-	National Legal	8: 4 – LA 4 – AWO 9 Quarantine	Sloboda Zvierat
<b>Spain</b>	Regional laws	Compulsory only in some areas	M/chp Tattoo ID tag	shelters	10 – 17 days	<i>Increasing</i>	4	Legal	AWO and LA No figures	ANDA
<b>Sweden</b>	National Animal Welfare Act 1998	Voluntary	M/chp tattoo	Police	3 mo	800,000 <i>Increasing</i>	1	legal	No figures AWO	Swedish KC
<b>Switzerland</b>	National	Mandatory For dogs over 5 months	M/chp tattoo	Cantonal vet service	No data	500,000	1	No data	50 - AWO	STS



**Appendix 1.1.6.** Member societies and affiliates that responded to the questionnaire

<b>Country</b>	<b>European Status</b>	<b>Member Society</b>
<b>Albania</b>	O	<b>Albanian Veterinary Medical Association</b> P.O. Box 50 Tirana Albania
<b>Armenia</b>	O	<i>Withheld</i>
<b>Azerbaijan Republic</b>	O	<b>Azerbaijan Society for the Protection of Animals</b> Azadlig Street Baku Azerbaijan <b>www.azsp.org</b>
<b>Belarus</b>	O	<b>Society for the Protection of Animals “Ratavanne”</b> 40-26 Yakubovsky Street Minsk Belarus <b>www.ratavanne.org</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	EU	<b>Chaine Bleue Mondiale</b> Avenue de Visé 39 B-1170 Bruxelles Belgique
<b>Bosnia-Herzegovina</b>	O	<b>Society for Prevention of Cruelty to AnimalSOS Sarajevo</b> Ferde Hauptmana 7 71000 Sarajevo Bosnia-Herzegovina <b>www.animalsosa.ba</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	CC	<b>Society for Protection Animals – VARNA</b> 6a “Kniaz Nikolaevich” Street Entry apt. 13, Varna 9002 Bulgaria
<b>Croatia</b>	CC	<b>Društvo Za Zastitu Zivotinja Rijeka: Society for Animal Protection Rijeka</b> Velebitska 1 51000 Rijeka Croatia
<b>Cyprus</b>	EU	<i>No response</i>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	EU	<i>No response</i>
<b>Denmark</b>	EU	<b>Dyrenes Beskyttelse: Danish Animal Welfare Society</b> Alham barvey 15, DK – 1826 Frederiksberg C Denmark <b>www.dyrenes-besktelse.dk</b>

Country	European Status	Member Society
Estonia	EU	<b>Estonian Society for the protection of Animals (ESPA)</b> Angerja 9-9 Tallinn 10416 Estonia <a href="http://www.lookmakaitse.ee">www.lookmakaitse.ee</a>
Finland	EU	<b>Suomen Eläinsuojeluyhdistys SEY ry (SEY): Finnish Society for the Protection of Animals</b> Kotkankatu 9 00510 Helsinki Finland <a href="http://www.sey.fi">www.sey.fi</a>  <b>Helsingin Eläinsuojeluyhdistys ry: Helsinki Humane Society</b> Yhdgskunnantue II SF- 006802 Helsinki Finland <a href="http://www.hesy.fi">www.hesy.fi</a>
France	EU	<i>No response</i>
Georgia	O	<i>No response</i>
Germany	EU	<b>Bundesverband Tierschutz e.V.</b> Essenberger Straße 125 47443 Moers Germany <a href="http://www.bv-tierschutz.de">www.bv-tierschutz.de</a>
Greece	EU	<b>Greek Animal Welfare Society</b> Zallogou 13/15, 10678 Athens Greece <a href="http://www.gawf.org.uk">www.gawf.org.uk</a>
Hungary	EU	<b>Rex Dog Shelter Foundation</b> 1048-H, Budapest Óceánárok u. 33. Hungary <a href="http://www.rex.hu">www.rex.hu</a>
Iceland	O	<i>No response</i>
Ireland	EU	<b>Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA)</b> ISPCA Head Office Derryglogher Lodge Keenagh, Co Longford Rep of Ireland <a href="http://www.ispca.ie">www.ispca.ie</a>

Country	European Status	Member Society
Italy	EU	<b>Lega Pro Animale</b> Via Mario Tommaso 1 – 81030 Castel Volturno (CE) Italy <a href="http://www.legaproanimale.de">www.legaproanimale.de</a> <a href="http://www.fondazionemondoanimale.com">www.fondazionemondoanimale.com</a>
Latvia	EU	<i>No response</i>
Lithuania	EU	<b>Lithuanian Society for the Protection of Animals (LiSPA)</b> Radvilu dvaro g. 33 LT – 48332 Kaunas Lithuania
FYR Macedonia	O	<i>No response</i>
Malta	EU	<b>SPCA Malta</b> Animal welfare centre Triq L' Argotti Floriana Malta <a href="http://www.spcamalta.org">www.spcamalta.org</a>
Moldova	O	<b>TRISAN Association of Nature and Animal Protection</b> 8 Valea Crucii Str. Apt 105 Chisinau MD 2062 Moldova
Netherlands	EU	<b>Nederlandse Vereniging Tot Bescherming van Dieren: Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals</b> PO Box 85980 2508 CR Den Haag Netherlands <a href="http://www.dierlenbescherming.nl">www.dierlenbescherming.nl</a>
Norway	O	<b>Norwegian Animal Welfare Alliance (NAWA)</b> Dyrevernalliansen Brenneriveien 7 0182 Oslo Norway
Poland	EU	<b>Ogólnopolskie Towarzystwo Ochrony Zwierząt (OTOZ) Animals</b> 81-750 Sopot ul. Dębowa 12/1 Poland <a href="http://www.animals.otoz.pl">www.animals.otoz.pl</a>

Country	European Status	Member Society
Portugal	EU	<b>ANIMAL</b> Apartado 2028 - 8501-902 Portimão Portugal <a href="http://www.animal.org.pt">www.animal.org.pt</a>
Romania	CC	<i>No response</i>
Serbia and Montenegro	O	<b>Društvo Prijatelja Zivotinja (Ljubimic) Pancevo: The Society for the Protection of Animals - Ljubimci</b> Vojvode Radomira Putnika 19 26000 Pancevo Serbia
Slovak Republic	EU	<i>No response</i>
Slovenia	EU	<b>Society for the Protection of Animals of Ljubljana, Slovenia</b> Po Box 4733, SI-1001 Ljubljana Slovenia
Spain	EU	<b>FAADA</b> C/ Joan d' Austria s/n. 08930 Sant Adria del Besos Barcelona Spain <a href="http://www.faada.org">www.faada.org</a>
Sweden	EU	<b>Djurskyddet Sverige: Animal Welfare Sweden</b> Rokerigata 19 1121 62 Johanneshov Sweden <a href="http://www.djurskyddet.se">www.djurskyddet.se</a>  <b>Svenska Djurskyddsforeningen</b> PO Box 5867 5 – 10 240 Stockholm Sweden <a href="http://www.djurskgdd.org">www.djurskgdd.org</a>
Switzerland	EU	<b>Schweizer Tierschutz STS / Swiss Animal Protection SAP</b> Dornacherstrasse 101 CH-4008 Basel Switzerland <a href="http://www.tierschutz.com">www.tierschutz.com</a>
Turkey	CC	<i>No response</i>

Country	European Status	Member Society
Ukraine	O	<b>CETA Centre for the Ethical Treatment of Animals “LIFE”</b> 23 Stepnaya St Malaya Danilovka Dergachevsky raion Kharkovskaya oblast, 62341 Ukraine <a href="http://www.cetalife.com.ua">www.cetalife.com.ua</a>
United Kingdom	EU	<b>Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</b> Wilberforce Way Southwater Horsham West Sussex UK <a href="http://www.rspca.org.uk">www.rspca.org.uk</a>  <b>Dogs Trust</b> Wakley Street London UK <a href="http://www.dogstrust.org.uk">www.dogstrust.org.uk</a>

Key: EU: Member of the European Union; CC: Candidate Country for membership of the EU; O: Other Country

**Appendix. 1.1.7.** The Results of the Chief Veterinary Officers Report on Polish Shelters for Homeless Animals (2001 – 2005).

Year of inspection	Number of animals cared for by shelters during the year of inspection		Number of animal shelters
	Dogs	Cats	
1999/2000	66,462	24,945	122
2000/2001	72,580	18,880	122
2001/2002	71,921	14,266	135
2002/2003	71,077	16,296	139
2003/2004	75,358	16,201	142