



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS



EXPERT MEETING ON DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT

*with PAHO and WHO's technical contribution and
the Fondazione – Spinola Banna per l'Arte's support*

Banna (Italy) • 15-19 March 2011

CALL FOR EXPERTS

(Deadline for submission of applications: 18 December 2010)

Background

Dogs play a number of important roles in human societies: for example, they are used for herding other animals, guarding property as well as for companionship. Many animals live in close contact with human beings, but in many countries, an increasing number of unvaccinated and unwanted dogs are found roaming, especially in urban spaces and human habitats, and give rise to a series of human and animal health and welfare concerns. More urban food waste, lack of responsible ownership and changes in society are leading to an apparent increase of abandoned dogs. For all these reasons, there is a need to manage dog populations efficiently and without causing animal suffering.

There are a number of different options for managing dog populations; however their acceptability depends on ethical, socio-economic, political and religious specificities of the local context. FAO acknowledges that human health, including the prevention of zoonotic diseases such as rabies and leishmaniasis, is a priority as it negatively affects people's lives in many ways.

To provide expert knowledge and guidance to a wide range of stakeholders including national and local governments (for instance municipalities) who may address dog population management options and implement relevant international standards and best practices, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Istituto "G. Caporale" from Teramo, Italy, with the technical contribution from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO), are organizing an Expert Meeting.

Between September and November 2010, in preparation for the Expert Meeting, FAO conducted an e-consultation with 230 subscribers from 69 countries to gather up-to-date relevant information and expertise on dog population management, (available at <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/blog/en/>), focusing on the following four themes:

1. Current state of knowledge on dog population management options with special emphasis on animal welfare and health consideration;
2. Implementation of existing relevant OIE international standards (available at: http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.7.7.htm);

3. Case studies and best practices for the development of context specific options for dog population management, on the basis of scientific evidence and ethical considerations; and
4. Recommendations for further actions and research needs at national and international level to address dog population management options.

The report of the e-consultation along with the documents shared by participants and experts will constitute the background literature to the Expert Meeting.

Objectives of the Expert Meeting

The objective of the meeting is to identify dog population management options and to give recommendations for successful implementation of relevant international standards and best practices, with special emphasis on animal welfare and health through:

- Assessing dog populations and management options and their implementation (modelling, dog population dynamics and behavioural/ecology studies, socio-economic studies, etc.)
- Reviewing animal birth control options
- Reviewing techniques and selection criteria for euthanasia for public health purposes
- Reviewing best practices of dog catching, handling and housing
- Addressing animal and public health and animal welfare issues
- Identifying public awareness, education and communication on responsible dog ownership and dog management options in different contexts
- Defining institutional and civil society responsibilities
- Considering other relevant issues

Output of the Expert Meeting

A report, based on current scientific knowledge, consolidated experience and successful models recommending dog population management options, measures for successful implementation of relevant international standards and best practices to central governments, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

CALL FOR EXPERTS

Suitable qualified experts with professional or practical experience in the following areas are invited to submit their curriculum vitae including a description of their work experience, and if applicable, a list of peer-reviewed publications, particularly those related to the subject of the Expert Meeting:

- Dog population management and modeling
- Dog welfare
- Socio-economic assessment of the importance of dogs
- Animal birth control with special emphasis on alternative methods to surgical approaches (e.g. immunocontraception, chemical sterilization)
- Dog vaccination
- Prevention and control of zoonotic diseases transmitted by dogs
- Dog catching, handling and depopulation methods
- Registration, identification and traceability
- Responsible dog ownership
- Communication, awareness building, educational methods and behavioural changes
- Shelter management
- Capacity building methodologies and tools

Selection of experts

FAO has developed procedures for selecting and designating experts that ensure transparency, excellence and independence of points of view. In selecting experts, the organizers will consider, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, diversity of backgrounds and balanced representation from geographic regions and gender.

The selected experts will be invited to participate in the meeting and to contribute with background material and papers. Experts are selected in their 'personal capacity' and will be asked to sign that they are not presenting any particular organization or group.

The expert meeting will be held in English and all meeting documentation and correspondence will be in English.

Experts will be provided with economy class air travel, transportation to the venue of the workshop and room and board for the length of their stay. No honorariums are paid.

Selection process

All submitted applications shall be reviewed by a panel that will determine whether the applicants meet the following selection criteria:

- Relevance of academic qualifications and professional/practical experience in the required area (see under Call for Experts);
- Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals in areas related to the subject of the Expert Meeting and/or practical experience in these topics;
- Leadership of, or invited participation, in national or international scientific committees pertinent to the topics;
- Working knowledge of the English language.

**Please submit applications, data and relevant information,
no later than 18 December 2010 by email to:
Dog-Population-Management@fao.org**