

**Activity 1.3 “Proposal with recommendations resulting from the assessment and the internships” within CARDS Twinning Project BA05 IB AG 01
- Animal welfare workshop –
Sarajevo, 27th – 28th of October 2008**

Mission Report

Abbreviations

BiH	Bosnia-Herzegovina
EU	European Union
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals
WSPA	World Society for the Protection of Animals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
SVO	State Veterinary Office in BiH

1. Summary

From 27th to 28th of October 2008 the animal welfare workshop within the project CARDS Twinning Project BA05 IB AG 01 took place at Sarajevo.

The experts have presented an overview of the legal framework of animal welfare law within the European Community. Also near future projects of the EU and the RSPCA on this case were presented.

Staff member of SVO showed the actual state of animal welfare law in BiH; it is legally checked by constitutional lawyer now, afterwards it could be presented to parliament for voting. Another presentation gives report experiences of the Slovenian Veterinaries within control of animal transportation according to the requirements of the EU regulation 1/2005.

The second day was filled with presentation about management of stray animal population contributed by non-governmental organisation (NGO) of BiH.

Questions and contributions have been focussed and were comprehensively discussed after presentations have finished.

2. Objectives:

The purpose of the workshop was to describe rules for the protection of animals and their welfare aiming to ensure that the competent authority shall exercise and implement efficient supervision and controls on issues regulated by the law of animal welfare including acquis alignment in the veterinary sector according to animal welfare.

3. Agenda

Opening of the workshop and approval of the workshop agenda
Mr. Sanin Tankovic, Secretary, State Veterinary Office in BiH

Introduction to Western Balkans Animal Welfare Network
Alexandra Hammond-Seaman, Senior Programme Manager, RSPCA International

Presentation:

“Introduction to Animal welfare ”

Mr. Paul Bours, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands

Presentation:

“Animal welfare” The European Legal Framework

Ms. Judit Krommer, Animal Welfare Unit, DG Sanco, European Commission

Presentation:

“Introduction to BiH Animal welfare law”

Ms. Inga Dujmović, State Veterinary Office in BiH

Presentation:

Farm animal welfare I : “Transport”

Mr. Michael Marahrens, Institute of Animal Welfare and Animal Husbandry, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health of Celle, Germany

Presentation:

“The Protection of Animals in Transport”

Mr. Mladen Tomšič, Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

Presentation:

Farm animal welfare II : “Slaughter”

Mr. Heinz Lessmann, District Veterinary Office of Landkreis Cloppenburg, Germany

Presentation:

Farm animal welfare III : “Welfare on farm”

Mr. Heinz Lessmann, District Veterinary Office of Landkreis Cloppenburg, Germany

Presentation:

“Humane stray animal management”

Mr. Gareth Thomas, RSPCA, United Kingdom

Presentation:

“Stray animal control policy in Germany”

Ms. Sylvia Heesen, District Veterinary Office of Kreis Kleve, Germany

Presentation:

“Stray animal control policy in Zagreb”

Mr. Jurica Ambrožić, City of Zagreb, City Office for Agriculture and Forestry, Croatia

Presentation:

“Support of the stray animal control”

Mr., SOS, Sarajevo

Ms., Help animals Sarajevo

Round table discussion

3. Current Issue of the Cattle Identification System

The president of the Association of Agriculturists criticized the administration for not registering his cattle. He got ear tags for identification but no identity cards.

4. Current Issue of Animal Welfare of Strays in BiH

The current situation of stray animals in BiH outlined by the participants of the workshop is as follows:

Stray animals are typically culled, mostly shot in the field by hunters or wired by municipally contractors and killed by methods (sometime) unacceptable. Animal hunters and catchers normally get "coat prizes."

Only a small number of animal shelters operated by NGO`s are working to keep of abandoned animals and such injured by traffic accident or other reasons. They try to reown them if become healthy.

A program managing the population of strays by catching, housing, vaccination, sterilisation or castration is not yet existent.

In consequence the participants of the workshop demand that the practice of catch and kill has to be stopped at once.

Killing by hunting must be stopped immediatly too, because lots of strays were severely injured but not killed.

The option for catch and controlled euthanasia of old, injured, ill and aggressive dogs should not only be maintained, it should become an integrated part of stray management system.

At this time there`s no legal base for measurements of handling the stray population in BiH.

5. Recommendations

1. Government has to take responsibility by implementing the animal welfare law and by-laws as soon as possible (but should implement only regulations which could be controlled).
2. To develop network-group within state, entities, cantons and NGO`s to create guidelines for the management of stray dog and cat population according to the WSPA/RSPCA Questionnaire within "Stray Animal Control Practices (Europe)" Page 41 – 45, for example:
 - Which identification system (compulsory or voluntary) should be performed? Who should run it?
 - Which neutering scheme should be performed? Who should run it?
 - How the stray dog or cat population should be controlled? (Which methods to catch stray dogs and cats should be used? Who will be responsible for catching? How to train them in catching and handling methods? Who should be responsible for stray dogs and cats when they are found? What methods to cull and / or euthanise stray animals should be used? Which animals should be neutered, vaccinated and released? Who selects, who performs for euthanasia?)

It is recommended to do by permanently obliged members of the groups concerned.

3. Before implementing measures a serious estimation of size of the stray dog population should be made. Without proofable data it will not be possible to calculate budget, staff, size of shelters and so on.
4. Animal keepers have to take responsibility for their ownership too because they are part of the problem and without change in behavior it won`t be possible to reduce the input of animals by abundance into the stray dog population.
5. All kept animals should be registered, microchipped for identification, vaccinated (especially against rabies because rabies is endemic in BiH). The question if a

financing support to owners would be helpful to speed the process has to be discussed.

6. The canton of Sarajevo should be obliged to reform the budget for animal health. The coat prize should be abolished, the saved money could better be used for neutering, vaccinating and releasing of strays. Because animal shelters are indispensable part of solving the problem of stray animals in BiH, the budgets for 2008 and 2009 also should provide money for the establishment of an animal shelter .
7. Different forums for information of public and pet owners should be created by all participants.
8. Education programmes on responsible pet ownership should be established in the country as well as introduction responsible and careful handling of animals into education of children at school.

8. Conclusion

The workshop shows, that there are lots of difficiencies in controlling stray animal population in BiH. Ways to establish stray management systems have been presented as well. But the government has to prepare the ground at first.

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