

Exploring the need: Case studies in sterilization policy and practice around the world

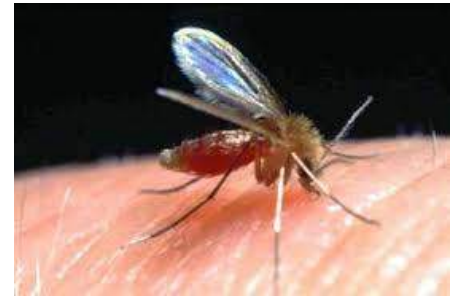


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(ICAM)

- Zoonotic disease
 - Rabies
 - Leishmaniasis
 - Hydatid disease (echinococcus)



- Safety: Dog bites

- Nuisance

- Welfare

- Poor physical condition
- Inhumane management (culling, inadequate shelters)

A CASE OF DOG ATTACK EVERY DAY

Vikas, Suraj & Kartik from Salimpur Ahra show their wounds from dog bites.

SALIMPUR Ahra locality in Patna has been facing the dog nuisance for several years now with cases of dog bites being reported almost every day. But the Patna Municipal Corporation (PMC) has no clue on how to tackle the problem.

"It is true that we have been receiving many cases of dog bites from various parts of the city but we are helpless," admitted Afzal Imam, mayor of Patna.

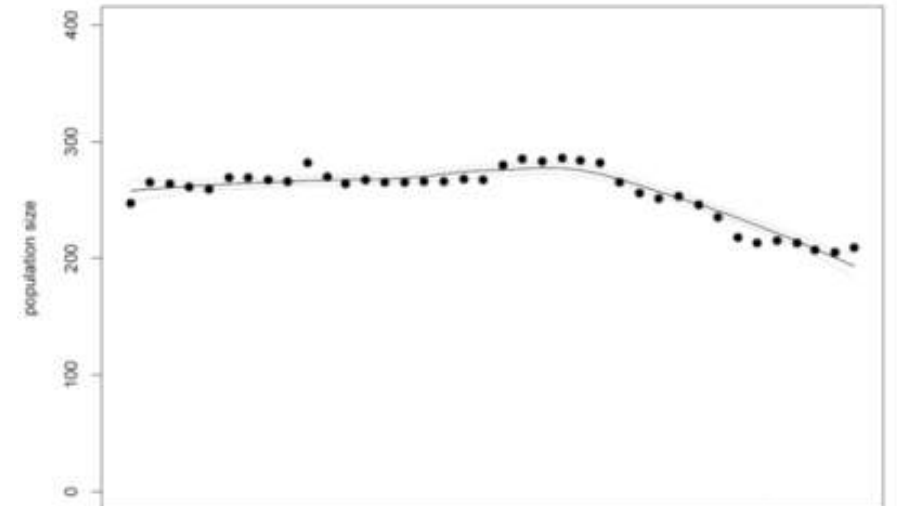
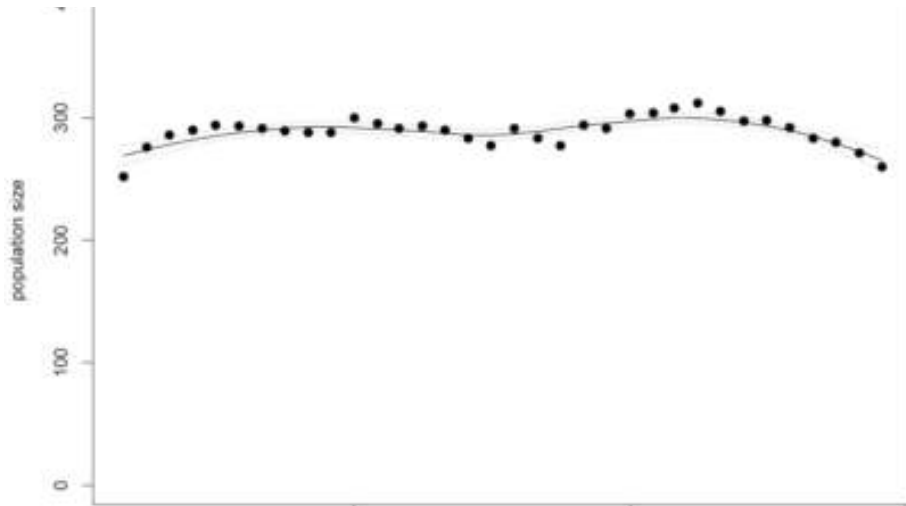
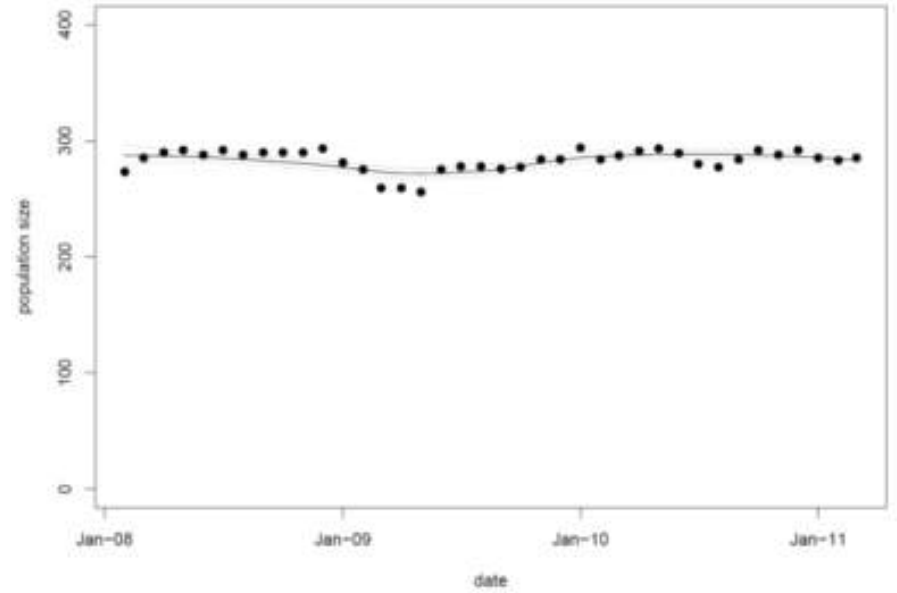
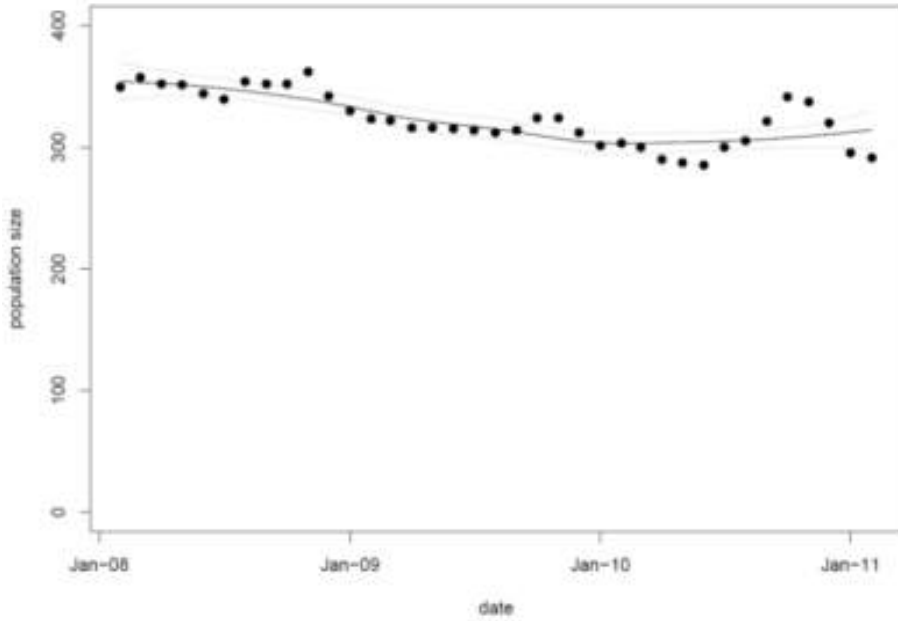
"Some time ago, we had decided to launch a sterilisation drive but it did not take off," he said.

Giridhar Jha/Patna

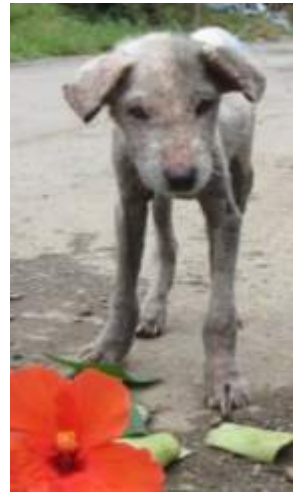
**Where are they coming from
(and what should we do about it)?**



~~“Overpopulation”~~



Stray dogs?



Standard tools for dog population management (DPM)



- Vet clinics
- Rabies vaccination
- Sheltering
- Adoption and fostering
- Sterilization (TNR)
- Capacity building
- Rescue and rehabilitation
- Campaigning/legislation
- Education and outreach
- Behavior Change campaigns

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Key Questions to target sterilization activities

- What are we trying to achieve?
- Which animals are our target?
- Where do they come from?
- Will they live long enough for sterilization to be worthwhile?



Norway



“It’s not the dog’s need”

“Neutering can never be a substitute for the proper training of the dog”

- Low dog:human ratio
- Virtually no shelter euthanasia
- More dog-dog aggression?

Norway



“It’s not the dog’s need”

“Neutering can never be a substitute for the proper training of the dog”

The need:

- Owner-directed solutions
- Reversible
- Nonsurgical

Bali, Indonesia

“People don’t even notice dogs’ suffering. They walk right past.”

- Endemic rabies, tourist complaints, stray dogs on beaches and streets
- 3% unowned “stray” dogs
- 40-70% households own at least 1 dog
- Skewed sex ratio toward males in some areas
- Few small animal vets
- No safe sterilization training at local vet school



Bali, Indonesia: Response to dog welfare intervention

After 1 year of intervention

6.8% sterilized

- Roaming dog density reduced
- Skin conditions reduced by 17%
- Citizens who believe owners are responsible for caring for a sick dog:
47% → 92%
- Citizens who disagree with culling:
66% → 90%



Bali, Indonesia: Response to dog welfare intervention

The need:

- Reduces unwanted breeding behaviors
- Can be combined with other priority treatments
- Easy to train, maintain standards
- Permanent and reversible options ideal
- Few side effects requiring veterinary oversight
- Assistance with drug registration



Bosnia & Herzegovina

Your shelter isn't the answer, my sterilization campaign is!

We want to be self-sufficient, but what are you going to give us?



- 3-16% dogs sterilized
- 30-52% dogs allowed to roam freely
- Many dogs owned for hunting, herding
- No-kill law
- 22-50% puppies reported abandoned
- 28:72 female:male ratio amongst owned dogs

Bosnia: Response to “Humane Community Development”

- All communities selected sterilization as a priority intervention
 - Mostly large animal vets
 - Limited access to gas anesthesia
 - One vet per community
- Sterilization clinics serve as source of motivation and community energy



Bosnia: Response to “Humane Community Development”

The need:

- Long-lasting: 8+ yrs
- Does not reduce working drive
- Requires little veterinary follow-up
- Cheaper than surgical sterilization – community events possible
- Can be done by a single trained professional



India

- Unowned dogs breed successfully on the street
- Endemic rabies
- Dog-feeding by locals common
- Little or no veterinary care provided to most street dogs



India: Mixed success with ABC-R

- Reduced dog density in locations of consistent TNR effort over long period
- Improved skin and body condition of street dogs reported
- Reports of improved human-dog interaction
- Reduced maternal aggression
- Safety/Quality concerns in TNR operations



India

The need:

- Effective, permanent sterilant
- Can be administered with rabies vaccine
- Reduces breeding behaviors
- Easily administered safely (no holding period)
- Economical



What issues might be impacted by sterilization activities?

- ✓ Community conflicts and security concerns
 - By improving street dog health and overall appearance
 - By reducing dog-dog aggression (maybe) and maternal aggression

What issues might be impacted by sterilization activities?

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- ✓ Human attitudes toward roaming/problem dogs
 - By demonstrating communal activity to solve “the problem”
 - By improving dog appearance and desirability

What issues might be impacted by sterilization activities?

- ✓ Community conflicts and security concerns
- ✓ Human attitudes toward roaming/problem dogs
- ✓ Community engagement
 - By galvanizing volunteerism around a visible activity/effort
 - By symbolizing “seriousness” of intervention

What issues might be impacted by sterilization activities?

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- ✓ Human attitudes toward roaming/problem dogs
- ✓ Community engagement
- ✓ Reduce wildlife conflict
 - Reduce interbreeding opportunities with wild canids

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- ✓ Human attitudes toward roaming/problem dogs
- ✓ Community engagement
- ✓ Reduce wildlife conflict
- ✓ Improve population stability
 - Improve owner retention by improving dog condition & desirability
 - Improve street dog longevity
 - Reduce ready supply of puppies creating “replacement” mentality (?)

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- ✓ Reduce wildlife conflict
- ✓ Improve population stability
- ✓ Disease control
 - By stabilizing vaccinated population

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- ✓ Disease control
- ✓ Improving human-animal relationship
 - Improve dog desirability
 - Reduced roaming which may decrease opportunity for human-animal bond formation

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Impacts

- ✓ Does the planned intervention address the community's key concerns?
- ✓ What additional measures are needed to ensure the efficacy of the investment?
- ✓ Do owners understand the impact of treatment?

Targets

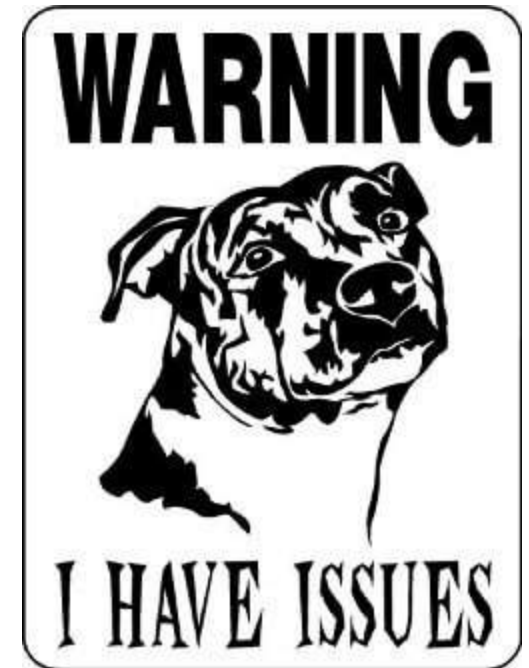
- ✓ Which dogs are targeted and why?
- ✓ Who can give consent and provide follow-up?

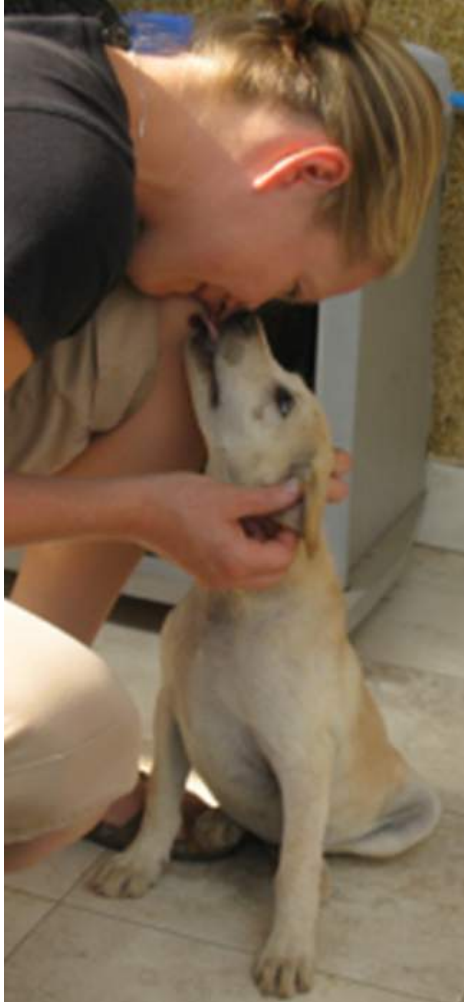
Safety & Feasibility

- ✓ Is it safe?
- ✓ Does it require oversight or follow up?

Sustainability and community engagement

- ✓ Who will sustain the effort?





Thank you!



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