

The Benefits of Dog Population Management (DPM) in Animal Welfare



Tennyson Williams
Africa Director

2nd International Meeting of the Pan-African Rabies Control Network

**Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa
12th – 14th September 2018**

We were known as **WSPA**
(World Society for the
Protection of Animals)



Dedicated to enhancing welfare and ending cruelty to animals across the world for over 30 years

Worked in Asia Pacific and MENA in Red Collar Campaign and LATIN America in PAHO rabies elimination programme.

Rescue of Dogs in disasters across the globe.

Our successes and ambitious plans for the future supported by hundreds of thousands of people, governments, international institutions and businesses in over 50 countries

We and our many partners share a common view that a sustainable world is one where animals are free from suffering.

Status of Dog population in Africa

- There are approximately 100 million dogs in Africa, majority of which are classified as either owned free-roaming dogs or true stray ownerless dogs.
- Countries in Africa have stray but mostly free-roaming dog populations that tend to experience uncontrolled breeding.
- This increases the risk of rabies and other dog-community conflicts in these African countries.



Status of Dog population in Africa

- It is estimated that by 2050 the human population in Africa will double. Since there is an inter-relation between humans and dogs, the dog population in Africa will also rise exponentially.
- Therefore, it is vital for Africa to develop pragmatic strategies to tackle the issues around rabies, responsible dog ownership and dog population control and management.
- This will have a direct / indirect effect on Africa meeting its SDG targets



Our Approach of DPM

- For effective and sustainable elimination of rabies:
 - A holistic sustainable long term approach is needed
 - An approach that **is aimed at improving the welfare of dogs and creating an environment for harmonious co-existence**
- Breaking the belief that mass culling controls rabies
- Accepting that Mass dog vaccination alone will not solve the problem
- To date, we have worked with partners to further this holistic approach in Zanzibar, Southern Tanzania, Kenya and Sierra Leone.





So what is the real dog issue ?

The real question.

- ❖ Is the dog the problem or the symptom of the problem?
- ❖ So are humans responsible for the dog problem?
- ❖ Is the dog a private or community responsibility?
- ❖ Or is the government responsible for providing and ensuring balance, health and maintenance of a stable dog – human environment?
- ❖ Or is it a combination of 2 or more issues/problems?

Presentation title goes here

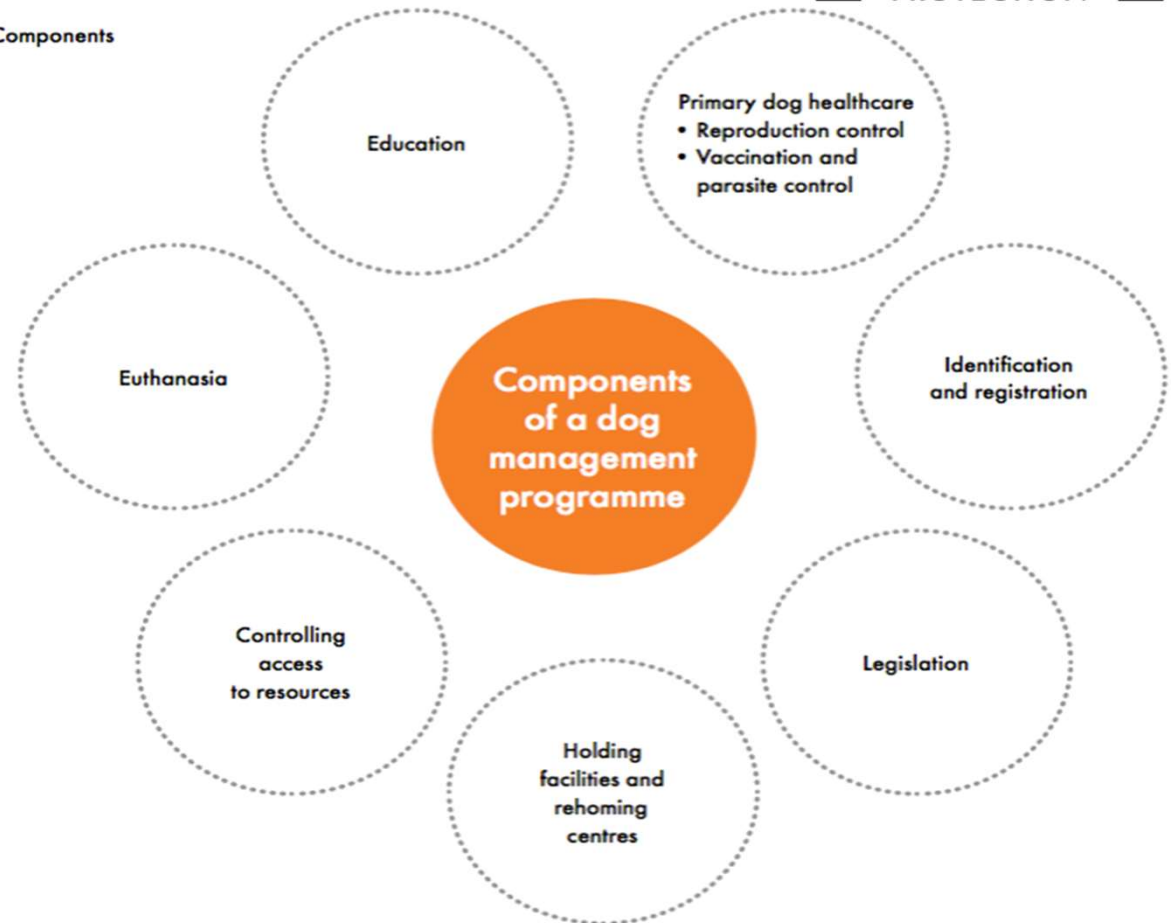


What is needed is improved dog welfare?

DPM Blueprint



Components



Things that are necessary to enhance rabies control according to publications that can be matched with our DPM blueprint elements



- ❖ Intersectoral and multi-national collaboration and coordination
- ❖ Strong political commitment
- ❖ Control of dogs on street (true stray, allowed to roam, neighbourhood)
- ❖ Studies on dog population and ecology, dog-human bond
- ❖ Health and community education (RPO, animal behaviour, dog management)
- ❖ Dog “management”
- ❖ Legislation supporting DPM

Engagement at Regional level



- For sustainable impact to be achieved the competent country authorities need to prioritise rabies elimination through both a national and regional strategies and plans that sovereign countries have signed up to.
- We have been able to be part of work in development of regional plans by institutions mandated to set these up including:
 - African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
 - Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
 - Animal welfare strategy for Africa
 - IGAD AW Strategy
 - AW Strategy Kenya
 - AW laws and Guidelines in Zanzibar, Kenya, Sierra Leone
 - National Rabies Elimination Strategies & Guidelines Kenya, Sierra Leone

Zanzibar

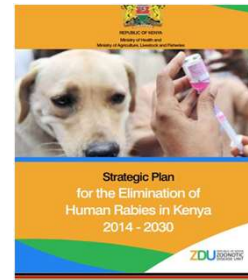
- 2000: WSPA first engaged Zanzibar with main goal of improving animal welfare policy and practice
- 2005: WSPA began a humane stray dog control programme with the Department of Veterinary Services
- 2009 – 2012: The Rabies and Dog Management Project
- 2013 – 2016: At the request of the Department of Veterinary services started an integrated Zanzibar Rabies Prevention & Elimination Project (ZRPEP)

Dog Population Management and Rabies Control



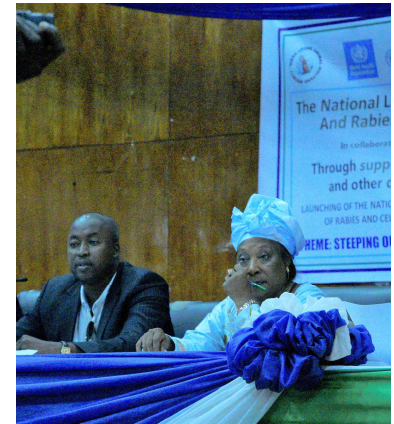
Kenya

- In Kenya we have worked with the Zoonotic Disease Unit at national and county level
- In the development of a national rabies elimination strategy - launched in 2014
- In 2018, the development of National Dog Population Management & Mass dog vaccination guidelines
- Working with national government on the Animal Welfare Act and Companion Animal Standards and Guidelines
- Collaborated with Kenya Veterinary Association on WRD and other programmes
- Working with County governments - AW By Laws



Sierra Leone

- **Ownership by Ministries of Health and Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security**
- **Establishment of a National Animal Welfare, livestock and Rabies Control Taskforce.**
- **National Rabies elimination and DPM strategy launched - September 2017**
- **Finalize draft Animal welfare and Livestock Acts – now at the Attorney General's Office.**
- **Collaboration with national WHO, FAO offices, GARC and other NGOs**
- **Capacity building of Freetown City Council to undertake pilot project in Freetown. Staff & Infrastructure**



Conclusion

- Improving the welfare of dogs which supports elimination of rabies is a key priority for World Animal Protection and we are currently running a global campaign (Better Lives 4 Dogs) to achieve this.
- We have outlined our approach in our newly published resource entitled 'Humane Dog Management: Better lives for dogs and communities'.
- We will continue to collaborate with key institutions, communities across Africa to ensure that we realise our common vision of a canine rabies free Africa.
- We reiterate our willingness to cooperate with governments across the continent and share our years of knowledge and experience in order to create an African continent where dogs and humans enjoy harmonious co-existence.





Thank you