

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission  
September 2009 Report

USA Comments

CHAPTER 7.7.

~~GUIDELINES ON~~  
STRAY DOG POPULATION CONTROL

**Preamble:** The scope of these recommendations is to deal with stray and feral dogs, which pose serious human health, animal health and welfare problems and have a socio-economic, political, and religious problems in many countries. Whilst acknowledging human health is a priority including the prevention of zoonotic diseases notably rabies, the OIE recognises the importance of controlling dog populations without causing unnecessary or avoidable animal suffering. Veterinary Services should play a lead role in preventing zoonotic diseases and ensuring animal welfare and should be involved in dog population control, coordinating their activities with other competent public institutions and/or agencies.

**USA Comment/observation:** The United States recommends that the OIE consider including stray and feral cats in this Chapter 7.7 “Stray Dog Population Control”. Stray and feral cats can be reservoirs and vectors of many infectious diseases, including zoonoses such as *Toxoplasma gondii*, Bartonella and rabies. In addition, their depredations on many species cause significant impacts on ecological communities. Similar to the chapter on Stray Dog Population Control, economical, effective and humane veterinary applications are needed to manage stray cat populations.

Article 7.7.1.

Guiding principles

...

---