

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

USA Comments

CHAPTER 7.7.

**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, environmental, political and religious impact in many countries. Whilst acknowledging human health is a priority including the prevention of zoonotic diseases notably rabies (Chapter 8.10.), and that dog population management is an integral part of rabies control programmes (Chapter 8.10.), 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.

**Rationale for commenting on the Preamble:** Editorial suggestions to improve readability and clarity (e.g., if suffering is avoidable, it is unnecessary).

Article 7.7.6.

**Control measures**

The following control measures could be implemented according to the national context and local circumstances. Measures may be used in combination. Euthanasia of dogs, used alone, is not an effective control measure. If used, it should be done humanely (see point 11 of Article 7.7.6.) and in combination with other measures to achieve effective long term control. It is also important that authorities gain an understanding of people's attitudes towards dog ownership so that they can develop a cooperative approach to the control of dog populations.

1. Education and legislation for responsible ownership

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7. Control of dog movement – international (export/import)

Chapter 8.10. provides recommendations on the international movement of dogs, with respect to provision for prevention and control of ~~between rabies-free countries and countries considered to be infected with rabies.~~

**Rationale for commenting on Article 7.7.6, Point 7:** Editorial suggestions to improve clarity

8. ...