

PET POPULATION MANAGEMENT



COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME

- A. Initial Data Collection and Assessment**
- B. Influential Factors in Pet Population Management**
- C. Components of a Pet Population Management Programme**
- D. Designing the Intervention**
- E. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation**



INITIAL DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT

- **What is the current estimated size of the pet population?**
- **Where are the animals coming from?**
- **What welfare problems do the animals face?**
- **What problems do the animals cause (real or perceived) and what is done to control these problems?**
- **What is currently being done to control the size of the pet population?**
- **Who are the relevant stakeholders?**
 - **Veterinary Community**
 - **NGO Community**
 - **Educators**
 - **Community Leaders/ Representatives**
 - **Local Community**

INITIAL DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT

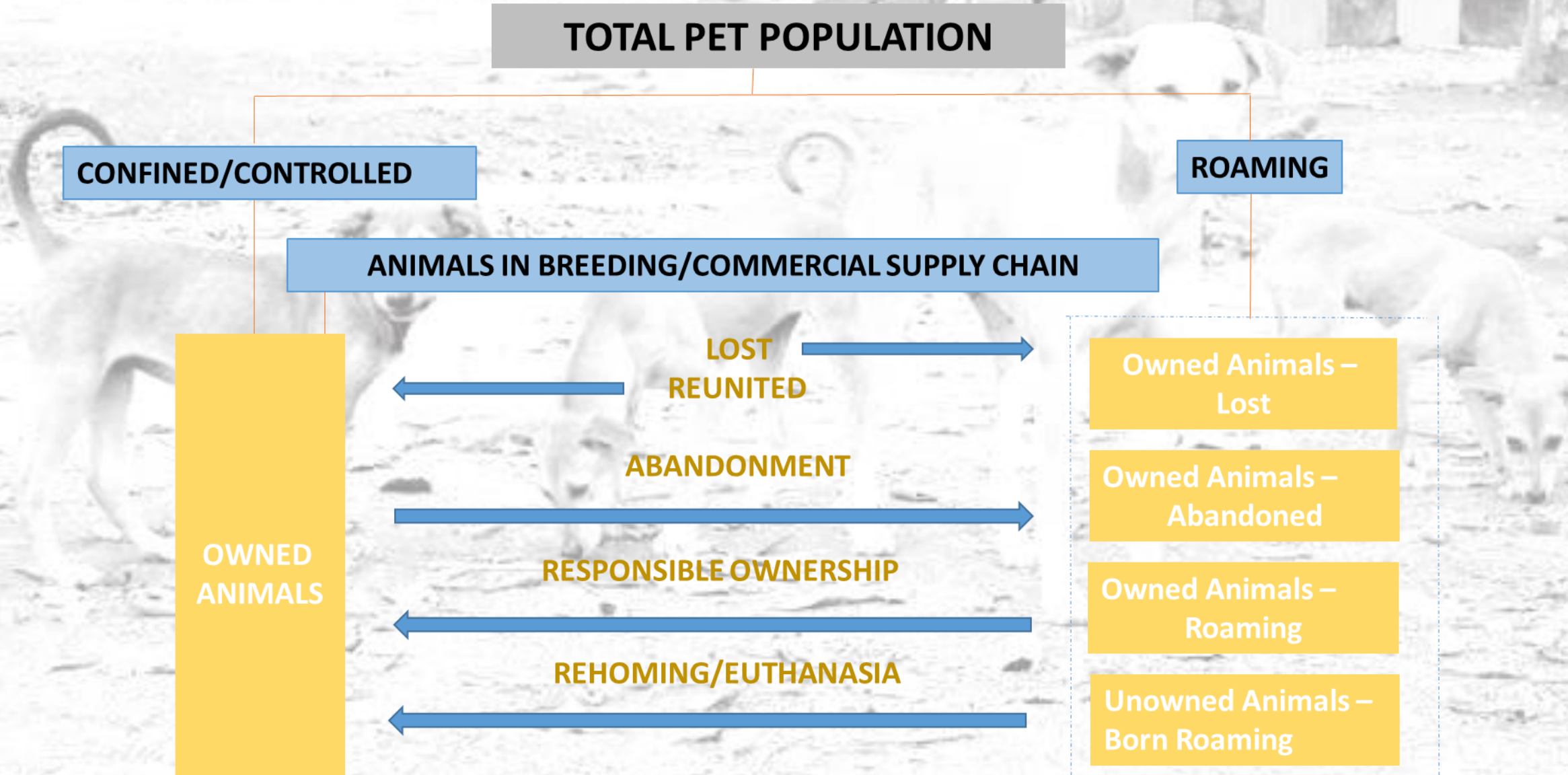
- **What is the current estimated size of the pet population?**

One of the simpler ways to estimate the total number of pets in a town or city is to divide the total number of dogs/cats counted in the homes visited, by the overall number of homes in the area. So for example if the town has 100 households, and 50 pets were counted in 20 of those households, the estimate would be the number of pets counted divided by 20/100. See below for a worked example.

Total number of dogs/cats counted	50		50	
		=		= 250
Number of households visited/total households	20/100		0.2	

INITIAL DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT

- Where are the animals coming from?



INITIAL DATA COLLECTION AND ASSESSMENT

What welfare problems do the animals face?

Use the FIVE FREEDOMS:

- **Freedom from hunger or thirst** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
- **Freedom from discomfort** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- **Freedom from pain, injury or disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- **Freedom to express (most) normal behaviour** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

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INFLUENTIAL FACTORS IN PET POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Consider and prioritise factors affecting the population size:

- Human attitudes and behaviours
 - Responsible Pet Ownership
 - Local Beliefs/Attitudes
 - Religion/Culture
- Reproductive capacity – unowned, owned, breeders
- Access to resources – rubbish, deliberate feeding

Factors motivating animal control:

- Zoonotic Disease
- Injuries/Bites
- Pollution
- MVAs

COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME

- Education – i.e. bite prevention, husbandry, preventative treatments
Can be formal, i.e. seminars, lessons in schools, leaflets, brochures, radio/TV, direct discussions with owners
- Legislation
APA (Humane programme), By-Laws,
- Records/Database
- Sterilisation
- Holding Facilities and Rehoming – Clear policy/procedures
- Euthanasia – treats symptoms, not causes
- Vaccination and Treatment – Rabies, Core vaccinations for young animals, parasite control
- Controlling access to resources

DESIGNING THE INTERVENTION

- Planning for sustainability – Financial, Manpower
- Aims, Objectives and Activities – Clear and agreed aims and objectives, agree on indicators to assess progress, and monitor and evaluate success if the programme
- Setting Standards for Animal Welfare – best level of animal welfare, monitor standards, review standards
 - Surgery (Aseptic techniques, anaesthetics, drugs)
 - Handling and transport of animals
 - Housing and husbandry
 - Rehoming procedures
 - Euthanasia
 - Record keeping and analysis of data, i.e. post op complications
- Identifying Indicators that can be used to monitor and evaluate each stage of the programme



IMPLEMENTATION

- Activities – prioritise, pilot area
- Maintain minimum standards

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Highlight both problems and successes to improve performance
- To demonstrate achievements to donors/supporters
- To ensure the agreed standards, processes and protocols are being upheld
- Monitoring – continuous process to check that the programme is going according to plan – adjust where necessary
- Evaluation – periodic, usually at particular milestones to check impact, and used as a basis to decide on future investment and continuation
- BOTH NEED SELECTED INDICATORS AT THE DESIGN STAGE
- Indicators are based on the desired achievements and outcomes

Example of monitoring and evaluation

OBJECTIVE 2 IMPROVEMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE		INDICATOR A measurement, number, fact, opinion or perceptions that reflects specific condition or situation	MEAN OF VERIFICATION How we will measure the indicator
IMPACT/GOAL Reflects the change created by the project	5 Freedoms Good physical and emotional wellbeing of all pets	Physical indicators: Body condition scores Tethering of dogs Supply of food, water and shelter Pet care by adults and children	Data obtained from Consent forms, and field workers noting: Change in body scores Fewer animal tethered, or more humanely tethered Animals supplied with water, food and shelter Number of animals vaccinated by owners
OUTCOME/PURPOSE Reflects the effect of the project	Improve animal welfare, including food, water and shelter supplies, disease management, medical interventions	Increase in overall body score Number of kennels supplied and runners fitted Number of animals vaccinated and medically treated	Records of body scores Records of kennels distributed and runners fitted Records of vaccinations and medical treatments
OUTPUT 1 Reflects the effort put in by the project	Improve animal welfare through Education, supplying kennels and runners, food, pet equipment, medical treatments and vaccinations	Education material Improvement in basic needs such as shelter, food and water, healthier and vaccinated animals	Participating organisations' educational material Records of body scores Records of kennels distributed and runners fitted Records of vaccinations and medical treatments
ACTIVITIES 1 Reflects what the project will actually do	Source Funding and donors Supply educational interventions and materials Medically treat and vaccinate animals	Funds sourced Effective educational interventions Improvement of animal welfare (less neglect, abuse, overall better care)	Agreements between participating AWOs Surveys Stats