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THE PROBLEM OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF STRAY ANIMALS

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This article reveals a topical issue – the growth of the number of stray animals, the disclosure of the problem of the growth of the number of homeless animals and the proposed methods of solution.

Keywords: Stray animals, responsibility, financing, danger.

Reasons for the increase in the number of stray animals.

According to statistics, most of the stray animals appear as a result of the irresponsible attitude of the owners and uncontrolled reproduction of stray animals. Also, the fact that there are not enough shelters directly in the Republic of Kazakhstan has a significant impact.

Why is this everyone's problem?

Stray animals, whether dogs or cats, are carriers of many diseases, among which, both in prevalence and in lethality, "leads" rabies [1]. According to data provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 160 people die from rabies a day, half of whom are children. Of course, there is an anti-rabies vaccine, but, as statistics show, it is not available everywhere, and even where it is available, it is not always applied on time. And even its timely application does not guarantee human survival. It is also worth recalling that when the first symptoms of the disease appear, its lethality is 100%. The Milwaukee Protocol also did not show significant results in the treatment of the rabies strain transmitted by dogs and cats.

However, even dogs that do not carry the deadly neurotropic virus pose a huge danger. Dogs, both alone and huddling in packs, attack people. Anyone can become a victim. There are many articles on this topic, some of which will be attached as a link at the end of the article [2,3].

Solutions and results of some countries.

Since a significant part of the animals become such as a result of the irresponsibility of the owners, based on the European experience, first of all it is necessary to strengthen control over pets and toughen the punishment for abuse (which is the throwing of pets into the street). Each pet should be implanted with a chip and registered, so that in case of an irresponsible attitude of the owner, catching a stray animal, accurately determine its identity and either return it to the owner or bring him to justice [4, 5].

This technique has proven its effectiveness in most European countries.

But this is a question of the future, and not the closest. Something needs to be done now. At the moment, government funding of shelters is required. All shelters located in Astana, as I found out together with my group, are funded exclusively by the voluntary help of caring citizens and are in unacceptable conditions. For example, a shelter that we visited less than a month ago (VD StopOtlov), on an area of less than 100 square meters contains more than 200 cats. Thanks to the help of caring people, these animals have food and a roof over their heads, but nevertheless, the conditions leave much to be desired.

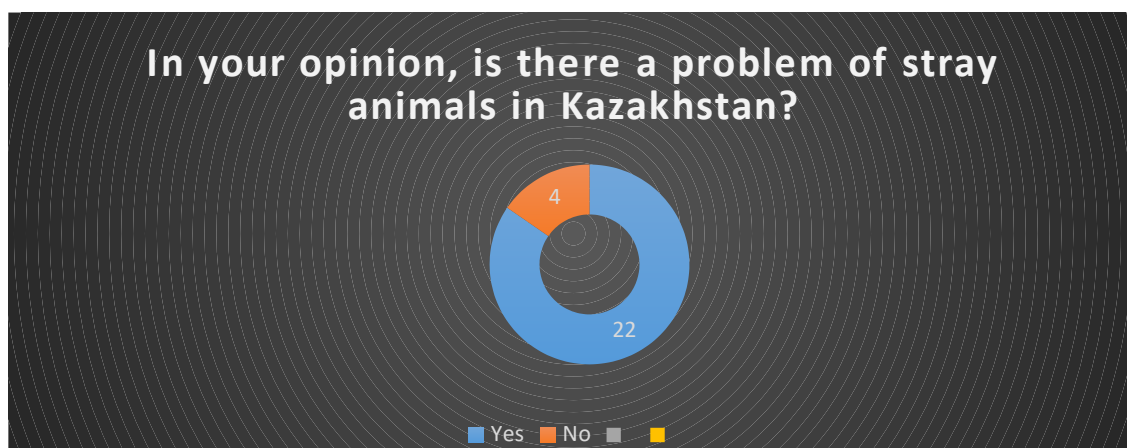
There is also an alternative method of combating the spread of stray animals, less effective and humane than shelters and the subsequent finding of the owner, but less financially costly. The technique is called «trapping-sterilization-vaccination-return back». It will reduce the likelihood of infection of citizens with dangerous pathogens, and in the long term, in combination with stricter responsibility and state accounting of pets, can solve the problem of stray animals. But in the short term, the problem of dog packs attacking people will not be solved at all. In India, this technique has led to a significant reduction in both the frequency of rabies outbreaks and the total number of diseases [4].

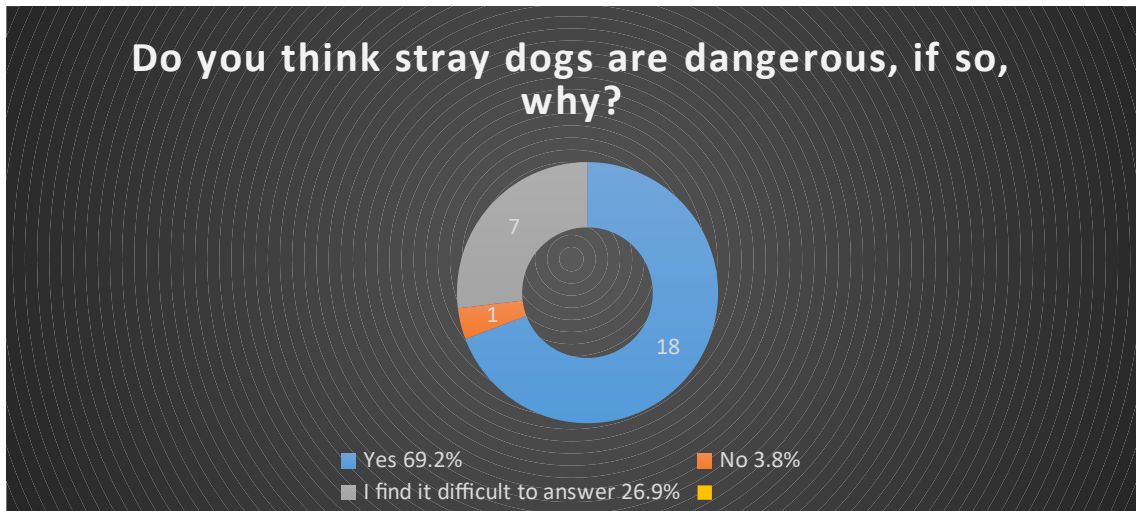
Personal suggestion on the issue of solving the problem.

Based on the above and according to the conducted research, I propose a combined method for solving this problem. Organization of state temporary shelters, the purpose of which will be to sterilize and vaccinate captured animals, as well as a parallel search for a new or search for an old owner. After a certain time, if the owner is not found, the animal will be returned to the streets. This method is quite humane, effective, and will significantly reduce the epidemiological threat from stray animals. However, as practice shows, in case of aggressive behavior, the animal should be euthanized so as not to endanger the attack of citizens.

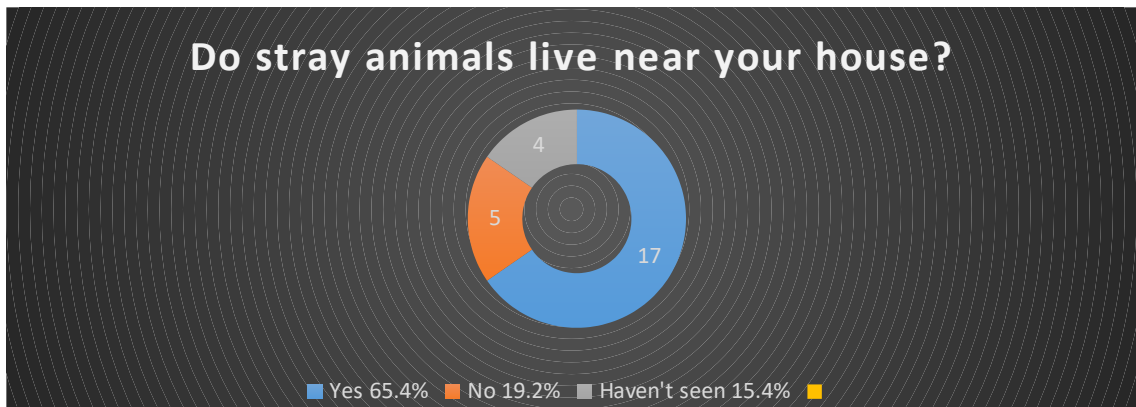
Results of the citizens' survey.

My group conducted a survey as part of a social project to help the shelter «VD StopOtlov». A total of 26 people was interviewed. The results will be demonstrated by me below in the form of diagrams.





The majority, according to the survey, considers stray dogs dangerous, as they can pose a physical danger to both children and adults.



Survey data show that most people have been in contact with stray animals in one way or another.

I see only the development of civic consciousness as the final solution to the problem. People often get dogs and cats, but over time they either get bored with them, or it becomes too difficult for them to keep them, and they decide to throw them out on the street. They don't even realize that they themselves are the sources of the problem.

To date, there is no control over pets as such in the Republic of Kazakhstan. And the lack of responsibility generates permissiveness.

I also attach statistics on exterminated animals in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2016-2017 (I have not found any more recent statistics in open sources). [6]

№	Locality	The amount allocated for the capture, maintenance and destruction of stray animals	The number of stray animals (dogs and cats) in 2016, numbers.	The number of stray animals (dogs and cats) for the first half of 2017, number.

		2016	2017	Caught	Disposed of	Returned	Caught	Disposed of	Returned
1	Akmola region	28 061 200.00	31 243 100.00		157 85			10 240	
2	Aktobe region								
	Aktobe	15 000 000.00	30 000 000.00			100		0	
3	Almaty region	57 800 000.00	68 400 000.00		32 957			21 285	
4	Atyrau region	36 800 000.00	49 190 000.00		19 066			17 984	
5	West Kazakhstan region	52 621 100.00	47 907 000.00		21 225			13 597	
6	Zhambyl region	36 622 000.00	44 649 000.00		26 293			17 051	
7	Karaganda region	39 578 100.00	52 072 000.00		15 080			11 189	
8	Kostanay region	35 013 550.00	34 549 972.00		13 576			11 184	
9	Kyzylorda region	41 100 000.00	40 900 000.00		25 799			15 058	
10	Mangystau region	30 439 000.00	30 505 000.00		17 161			11 508	
11	South Kazakhstan region	91 970 000.00	124 245 700.00		92 733	153		86 692	68
12	Pavlodar region	43 173 600.00	43 314 000.00		17 209			8 690	
13	North Kazakhstan region	28 846 000.00	31 199 600.00		13 525			7 788	
14	East Kazakhstan region	58 526 100.00	63 683 400.00	28 832	28 812	20	25 492	25 481	11
15	Astana city	49 997 000.00	43 462 500.00			21			13
16	Almaty city	153 442 000.00	176 410 000.00	22 776		357	13 690	12 647	1 077
	Total:	798 989 650.00	911 731 272.00	51 608	362 200	651	39 182	270 394	1 169

The exact number of stray animals is unknown; therefore, I have no opportunity to provide statistics on the effectiveness of this method. But, obviously, the allocated amount does not correspond in any way to the volume of

liquidated animals. In this connection, it is also necessary to tighten state anti-corruption control in this area of activity.

Conclusion

Nowadays the shooting of stray animals has been banned, however, no alternatives have been proposed. The situation is still in limbo, stray animals pose a danger to the population. Despite the minimal threat in Almaty and Astana, the situation in the regions remains acute. We need to draw the attention of the state to this issue before even more people are affected.

Reference

- 1 <https://www.who.int/ru/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/rabies>
- 2 <https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/582528-v-mangistau-uchastilis-sluchai-napadeniya-sobak-na-lyudej>
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- 4 https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Бездомные_животные
- 5 <https://informburo.kz/mneniya/tatiana-gutorova/pochemu-v-evrope-net-brodyachih-psov.html>
- 6 https://total.kz/ru/news/zhizn/bezdomnie_smertniki_unichtozhenie_brodyachih_zhivotnih_v_rk_vedetsya_v_promishlennih_masshtabah_date_2018_01_11_17_28_28