



UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES "KING MIHAI I" FROM
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"YOUNG PEOPLE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH
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RESEARCH ON CANINE POPULATION MANAGEMENT IN GORJ COUNTY
IN THE PERIOD 2013-2023

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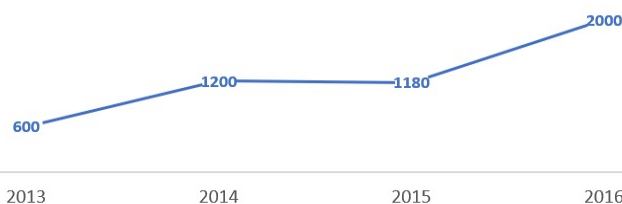
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Abstract: In Romania, the ever-growing number of stray dogs has become a well-known and current problem of the modern population, although its roots date back for at least three centuries. The present study proposes to deepen in the the problem of stray dogs in Romania, to review the current legislative framework related to the welfare of pets, with or without an owner, but also to observe the application and effectiveness of methods aimed at combating the problem of the number of stray dogs in Gorj county, by the local public forces, in parallel with the animal protection associations that exercise their activity on the territory of the county and the Municipality of Târgu-Jiu. Data regarding the numbers of stray dogs, in the 2013-2016 period, in the county was collected during in-person visits at the Târgu-Jiu townhall and from the local and national press in order to asses the situation, the last known number being 2000 stray dogs in the year 2016. A guide of animal welfare, based on specific indicators was redacted and applied in order to evaluate the living condition of dogs accomodated in a private "Open-Shelter" type animal shelter, located in Gorj County. The guide was applied three times during the study, each time a number of 80 dogs were being evaluated, for a total of 240 diffrent dogs. In clusion, the study highlights the diffrence between the management of the stray dog population between the local administrative forces and private animal protection associations.

• Introduction

- Romania's stray dog problem is well known and cited since before its War of Independence, the first known written record being in 26 november 1876. Since then, the legislative framework has undergone many changes, along with the ruling regime of the country. In 2013, "Ionuț's Law" was adopted, after the death of a four year old child, the latest law concerning the stray dog problem of Romania. Looking at Gorj County's residence city, Târgu-Jiu, where the number of stray dogs is on the rise since before 2013, we can start to analyze the root of the problem and come up with solutions for it.

STRAY DOGS POPULATION IN TARGU-JIU, 2013-2016



• Material and method

- To achieve the proposed goal, the legislative framework regarding stray dogs was obtained from the official website of Targu-Jiu's city hall, in the form of several City Council Decisions.
- The exact number of stray dogs remains unknown, a fact confirmed by a press release from the director of the Gorj Animal Protection Directorate.
- In order to compare the effectiveness of Targu-Jiu's Local Council methods in managing the numbers of stray dogs in the county, several visits at a local private "Open-Shelter" type shelter that specializes in catching and giving the dogs up for adoption to people from outside of Romania were realised in the 2019-2023 period.
- In order to carry out a thorough assessment, an animal welfare guide was drafted, its aim being to evaluation the living conditions of the dogs accommodated in the shelter.
- The guide uses several indicators to achieve a complete evaluation of shelter dog welfare:
 - Evaluation indicators at shelter level;
 - Evaluation indicators at pen level;
 - Evaluation indicators at individual level.
- The guide was applied three times during the study, each time a number of 80 dogs were being evaluated, for a total of 240 diffrent dogs.

• Results and discussions

- In Gorj county there are five public dog shelters that work with each other, with the aim of streamlining the management of the number of dogs.
- The municipality of Târgu-Jiu hosts the largest shelter in the region, with a maximum accommodation capacity of 500 dogs, while the other shelters combined have a maximum capacity of 360 dogs.
- In 2023, the city of Târgu-Jiu joined the Association for Intracommunity Development "Serviciul județean pentru ocrotirea animalelor fără stăpân", which reserves the right to euthanize any dog that is housed for more than 14 days in the public shelter of the city. In the January-August period of 2024, the Association has captured over 1400 dogs.

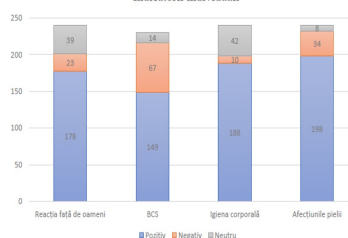


A private open shelter type shelter in Gorj county

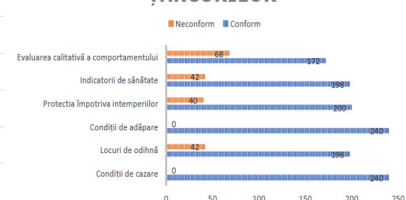
The public shelter of Targu-Jiu

- The association "Pro Animals Romania" is the only association for the protection of animals based in Gorj county, established in 1999 and active since 2000. In 2016, through the funds received from donations, the first mobile veterinary clinic in the country was purchased, equipped with apparatus and equipment necessary for surgical interventions, its purpose being to reduce the number of stray dogs in the county.
- A comparison was made between the management methods of stray dog population of Gorj county and a private "Open Type" shelter. The welfare of the dogs housed in the private shelter was evaluated using the newly drafted guide.

Indicatorii individuali



INDICATORII DE LA NIVELUL
ȚĂRURILOR



• Conclusions

- In Gorj county, the stray dog population management program is extensive, various animal protection associations being present, such as the Association for Intracommunity Development, the "Pro Animals" Association, but also international associations that manage the Open Shelter present in this study.
- Despite all these efforts, the problem of stray dogs is still present.
- When it comes to animal welfare in shelters, staff interest, available funds and public opinion are key elements.
- Public shelters, whose activity is communicated extremely rarely and only through negative articles in the local press, have been shown to almost completely neglect the condition of the animals housed. On the contrary, in our study's private shelter, everyone has access to information of interest, published on social networks, official websites or positive articles, the housed animals enjoy a high level of welfare.
- The concept of welfare and protection of all animals must become common in people's consciousness.