

Proposed Solutions for the Street Dog Problem

Short Term Plan.

- KAR will remove from the streets all dogs that are causing problems. Particularly in the areas of the harbour and around the town centre. Dogs that do not have numbered tags in their ears will be collected as, and when, there is space at the Rescue Centre. They will be neutered and tagged and an assessment done. If they are fit to be returned to the streets a decision will be made as to the best place for them.
- If there are dogs that KAR are unable to catch, even with the help of traps, then the Belediye should arrange for the Government Vet to be consulted. The plan would be for a trained marksman to shoot them with a tranquilliser gun. There should be a guarantee that no euthanasia drug/poison is used. KAR would then collect the dogs when they are safely sedated.
- KAR will maintain an up to date record of all dogs that are tagged and living on the streets.
- Girne Belediye must, together with KAR develop a system of record keeping. This should start with identifying the current street dogs and their location.
- Girne Belediye should, together with KAR have a traceable method of recording reports of 'nuisance' dogs. This could be similar to KAR 's written report system as well as being available via email.
- A report of any dog that is referred to KAR should include a description of the dog, its tag number [if it is a tagged dog] the problem with the dog, and its location. These details should be provided by the Belediye.
- Girne Belediye is responsible for checking stray dogs for micro chipping and registration. As per the requirements of the LAW.
- Ideally there should be a named worker within the Belediye who would have an overview of the population of the dogs in and around Girne. This would help communication between the public, the Belediye and KAR.
- Due to the new micro chipping and registration laws, we expect to see more dogs on the streets. There will therefore be a need for more dogs to be accommodated at the Rescue Centre. KAR hope that Girne Belediye will be able to support us with rebuilding the kennel block and new compounds, as well as contributing towards staffing, dog food and veterinary costs.

At every stage of this plan it is extremely important that a policy of neutering stray dogs is implemented.

In the KAR document 'Let Them Live' there are well researched and referenced reasons why this is the ONLY method of controlling the stray dog problem. Incarcerating dogs in compounds for the rest of their lives is both impractical and inhumane.

Middle Term Plan.

- The Belediye should begin plans to build a structure to house 20 – 30 dogs for temporary care. This should be built to EU standards.
- As per Article Four in the Law adult dogs, which are not tagged should be collected and taken by the Belediye to this facility. There they should be checked for micro chips and registration.
- If chipped or registered the Belediye are required by law to notify the owner. If after 10 days the owner has not been found, the Belediye hold the dog for a further 20 days, while a permanent home is sought.
- **It is extremely important that a neutering programme is established.**
- At the end of this 30 day period the dog can then be transferred to KAR with all the appropriate records. KAR need to be sure that all efforts have been made to locate the owner or that a permanent home has been sought.
- KAR will health check and assess the dog, and if applicable will tag, neuter and return the dog to its original area.
- All puppies, small breed dogs, and sick or injured dogs will be taken straight to KAR. A report form with details will be required.
- A financial agreement between KAR and the Belediye will need to be established.
- This middle term plan will essentially be a partnership between the Belediye and KAR. However the police should be vigilant, and be prepared to prosecute any owner seen to be abandoning a dog to live on the streets.
- It would be useful to know how many ownerless dogs are in Girne? Also to know how many dogs have been micro chipped and registered since the new Law came in at the beginning of 2014?

The only humane way to control the stray dog population is through a strict policy of micro chipping, registration, and neutering.

The Law states that all dogs over 6 weeks old should be registered. Owners must be made to take responsibility for their dogs and not to let them roam and breed indiscriminately. Fines should be imposed for not following the Law.

Low cost neutering schemes should be implemented and the public should be educated about the importance of having their dog neutered.