



# Current Situation and Challenges for Control and Management of Stray Animals in Nepal



Lok Nath Paudel, PhD

Senior Livestock Development Officer

OIE Focal Point for Animal Welfare in Nepal

General Secretary, Nepal Animal Science Association



# Agenda

- **Population statistics**
- **Stakeholder engagement**
- **Control and management strategies**
- **Challenges to implement the strategies**
- **Future steps to overcome the challenges**
- **Conclusion and way forward**

# Situation of Community Dogs in Nepal

# Population statistics of community dogs

- No nationwide census to find the exact population of dogs
- Some survey in some municipalities in past years

Municipalities	Community Dog Population	Year of survey
Kathmandu Metropolitan city	28000	2017
Lalitpur Metropolitan city	8000	2017
Bharatpur Metropolitan city	2000	2013
Pokhara Metropolitan city	1800	2012
Biratnagar sub-metropolitan city	3000	2008

# Population statistics of community dogs...

- Considering the human: dog ratio as 10:1, it is estimated that there are more than 2.7 million dogs in Nepal
- It is estimated that there are around 700 thousand pet dogs (rest 2.0 million are community dogs or stray dogs)!
- Pet dogs are concentrated in city areas such as Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Pokhara, Bharatpur
- Pet dogs are mostly registered in private kennel clubs and/ or clinics.

# Dog festivals, days and campaigns



# Stakeholder engagement

- Various governmental and non governmental organizations are involved in management of dogs
- All three level of governance-Federal, Provincial and Local government work for animal health and management
- Only some of them have special programs for the control and management of dogs.

# Some campaigns by the NGOs



**Mobile animal ambulance managed by NGO**



**ARV programmes launched by NGO**

# Stakeholder engagement...

## ■ **Non governmental organization :**

- Kathmandu Animal Treatment Center (KATC),
- Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust (HART),
- Society for Prevention of Cruelty against Animals Nepal (HPCAN),
- Animal Nepal,
- Sneha's Care,
- Federation of Animal Welfare Nepal (FAWN)
- Animal Welfare Network Nepal (AWAN)
- Others

# Control and management strategies of dogs

- Rabies is notifiable disease in Nepal
- Dog Neutering Campaigns-Regular and Satellite CNVR (Catch Neuter Vaccinate and Release) Programs.
- Regular CNVR Programs: Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Kaski, Chitwan and other municipalities.
- Satellite CNVR Programs: Various places as per the request from local governments
- Local municipalities have launched dog neutering and vaccination campaigns. Some have developed annual programs e.g., Kathmandu MPC has launched Manamaitry program

# Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release programs



# Control and management strategies...

- Public Awareness programs esp. for Rabies identification, management and prevention
- Annual Anti Rabies Vaccination programs at all 77 districts though in limited numbers
- National Vaccine Production Laboratory: produces anti-rabies vaccine
- Central and Regional Veterinary Laboratories for disease diagnosis
- Central Referral Veterinary Hospital: Free dog neutering program
- Waste management programs at local municipalities to control the stray dogs

# World Animal Day Celebration Programs



# Control and management strategies...

- One health approach for rabies control
- Epidemiology and disease control division: Provide free anti-rabies vaccination for humans
- World Rabies Day celebration: various activities for mass awareness, dog vaccination, etc.



# Challenges to implement strategies

- No dog population census till date
- Lack of Specified Dog Population Management Strategy
- Various organizations are working independently on CNVR
- Difficult geographical terrain
- No effective waste management programs
- Open border of India
- Limited awareness among public about dog management
- Limited resources-financial, human resources, infrastructure
- Low priority of the government, less interest of the political leaders
- Irresponsible pet owners: leave animals on street once they are sick or old
- No dog identification system inbuilt.

# Stray dogs, here and there!

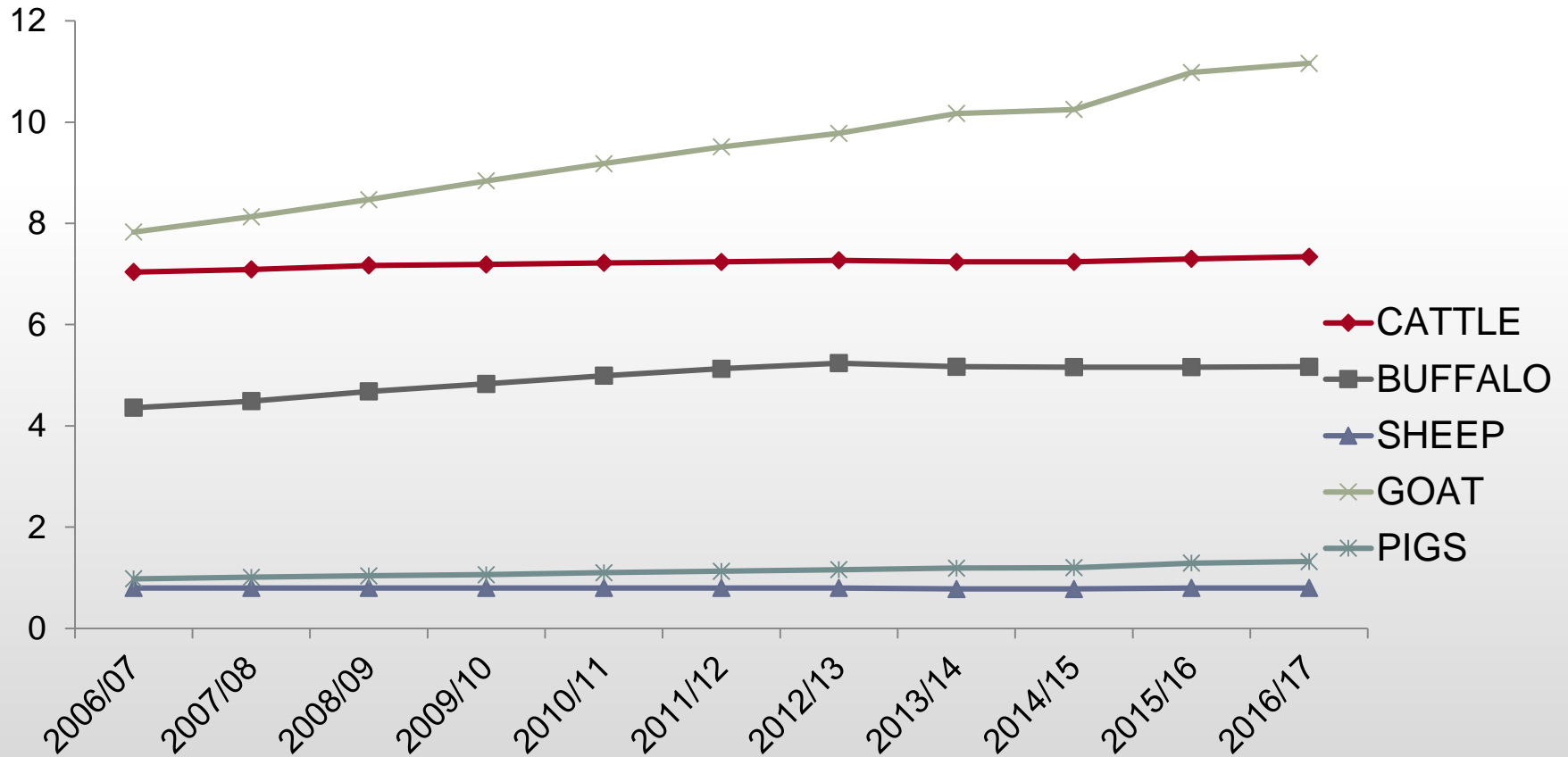


# Future steps to overcome challenges

- Public awareness on dog population control
- Dog population survey and census
- Development of dog population management strategy
- Dog registration and identification to be established
- One umbrella approach for NGOs
- Effective waste management strategy to be developed by all municipalities
- Joint programs at the border areas
- All 753 local governments to deploy required programs for the control and management of dogs
- Strong monitoring and evaluation of activities

# Situation of stray cattle in Nepal

# Livestock population of Nepal (Number in million)



# Animal population statistics of Nepal

One of the densely animal populated countries in Asia

## ➤ **7.2 million cattle**

- More than 80% are local breeds with very low productivity
  - Exotic breeds also have some problems with reproductive disorder and/or malnutrition
  - Unproductive cattle are the burden for the farmers, community and the governments
  - **They can not be sold out for any purpose**
- **No such problems with other animals, e.g., buffaloes can be sold out for meat purpose.**

# Programs for the management of stray cattle

## ➤ Community managed cattle rearing centers

➤ e.g., Ohm Sri Krishna cattle management centers, Narpani, Arghakhanchi

## ➤ Gaushalas (Stray cattle keeping centers)

➤ Pashupati, Bankali

➤ Resunga gaushala

➤ Sworgadwari gaushala

## ➤ Vulture restaurants

➤ Most of them are non-sustainable!

# Cattle in unmanaged places..



# Programs for the management of stray cattle



# Conclusion and way forward

- Stray animals especially dogs and cattle are increasing every year in Nepal.
- Some of the issues and challenges are related to social, cultural and religious aspects of Nepal.
- No specific and sustainable programs to address the issues of such animals from government side.
- Government organizations and NGOs are launching some programs to address these issues mostly independently.
- More coordinated and issues based programs are to be launched by the GOs and NGOs in Nepal.
- Animal welfare issues should get utmost important in such programs.



In main  
railway  
station,  
Kassel,  
Germany

■ Do You Eat  
Animal?

No,  
Thanks!

आगेका दिन भयन्करी,  
वो जीय जो है साकाहारी!



**Thank You ALL!**

