



Municipal Animal Control and Stray Animal Management Course: Shelters, TNR and Rabies



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Introduction:

Municipal animal control and stray animal management, covering shelters, trap-neuter-return TNR and rabies control, is the subject of this 1-week course for municipal environmental health, veterinary and animal welfare NGO managers, ending with a Humane Stray Animal Management Plan for a case municipality. Cities face rising free-roaming dog and cat numbers, bites, rabies exposure and resident complaints when capture is reactive and sterilisation, adoption and vaccination are uncoordinated. Nominees already manage field teams, shelters or complaint desks, and teaching is by case study on survey counts, intake records and bite logs. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this stray animal management course.

Course Objectives:

- Estimate free-roaming dog and cat numbers using street transect counts, mark-resight methods and owner household surveys
- Design humane capture and TNR operations with trapping schedules, ear-tipping, vaccination and colony caretaker agreements
- Run shelter intake, holding, health screening, adoption and return-to-owner routines that protect animal welfare and capacity
- Organise mass dog rabies vaccination, bite incident response and post-exposure referral with public health partners under a One Health approach
- Apply licensing, microchip registration, pet shop inspection and complaint handling procedures that reduce abandonment and nuisance reports
- Prepare a Humane Stray Animal Management Plan with sterilisation targets, shelter capacity, staffing and monitoring indicators

Target Audience:

- Managers responsible for municipal environmental health services and field animal control teams
 - Veterinary public health staff accountable for rabies vaccination campaigns and bite case follow-up
 - Animal welfare NGO managers who run shelters, foster networks, adoption and community cat colonies
 - Licensing and inspection supervisors responsible for pet shops, breeders and animal boarding premises
 - Customer service and complaint desk leads who handle resident reports about stray, injured or nuisance animals
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Course Outline:

Day 1: Stray Animal Landscape, Welfare Principles and Current-State Review

- Owned, Community and Free-Roaming Dog and Cat Categories
- Five Domains Model Applied to Stray Animal Welfare
- One Health Links Between Stray Animals and Zoonoses
- Municipal Animal Control Service Structure and Partner Roles
- Current-State Review of Complaints, Intake and Bite Records

Day 2: Population Assessment Methods and Humane Management Standards

- Street Transect Counts and Mark-Resight Population Estimates
- Owner Household Survey Design for Abandonment and Roaming Drivers
- WOAHS Terrestrial Code Stray Dog Population Control Principles
- Humane Method Comparison Between Culling, Sheltering and Sterilisation
- Zero by 30 Rabies Elimination Plan and Dog Vaccination Goals

Day 3: Capture, TNR, Shelter Operations and Adoption

- Humane Trapping Equipment, Handling and Transport Procedures
- TNR Colony Plan With Ear-Tipping and Caretaker Agreements
- Shelter Intake Assessment, Isolation and Daily Care Routines
- Adoption Matching, Fostering and Return-to-Owner Microchip Scanning
- Shelter Capacity Planning Using Length-of-Stay and Outcome Data

Day 4: Rabies Control, Bite Response, Licensing and Complaint Risks

- Mass Dog Rabies Vaccination Campaign Logistics and Coverage Checks
- Bite Incident Investigation, Animal Observation and Exposure Referral
- Pet Shop and Breeder Licensing Inspection Checklist Design
- Resident Complaint Triage, Response Times and Feedback Loops
- Community Engagement and Responsible Ownership Messaging Campaigns

Day 5: Case Study Practice and the Humane Stray Animal Management Plan

- Case Study Interpreting a Neighbourhood Dog and Cat Survey
 - Case Study Responding to a Cluster of Dog Bite Reports
 - Case Study Resolving an Overcrowded Shelter With Adoption Drives
 - Budget, Staffing and Sterilisation Target Setting for the Plan
 - Humane Stray Animal Management Plan Completion and Peer Review
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Skills You Will Gain:

- Free-Roaming Population Estimation
- Humane Capture Technique
- Community Cat Colony Management
- Shelter Intake and Outcome Management
- Rabies Vaccination Campaign Planning
- Bite Case Investigation
- Pet Premises Inspection
- Resident Complaint Resolution

Why Attend This Course:

- Present a Humane Stray Animal Management Plan to the municipal environmental health director, the veterinary lead and partner NGOs for approval
- Decide where to sterilise, vaccinate, shelter or rehome animals using survey counts and intake data rather than reacting to each complaint
- Avoid repeated culling disputes, overcrowded shelters, missed rabies exposures and pet shop licences issued without inspection
- Coach field officers, shelter staff and complaint desk teams with the survey forms, inspection checklists and bite records used in the case studies

Conclusion:

Back at work, the participant presents the Humane Stray Animal Management Plan to the environmental health director, the veterinary public health lead and partner welfare organisations, who use it to set sterilisation targets, shelter capacity, vaccination coverage goals and complaint response standards. Field teams apply its survey forms and bite records from the first month. After the first sterilisation and vaccination cycle, the municipality should repeat the street count and compare bite reports, shelter length of stay, adoption numbers and complaint volumes with the baseline, then revise the plan.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What should participants know before a municipal animal control and stray animal management course?

Participants should already manage animal control field teams, shelter services, veterinary public health work or resident complaint handling. Bringing anonymised complaint logs, shelter intake records or bite reports helps them apply the case studies to their own municipality or organisation.

How does municipal animal control and stray animal management differ from a livestock animal health course?

It concentrates on free-roaming dogs and cats in towns and cities: population surveys, humane capture, TNR, shelters, adoption, rabies vaccination and bite response. Livestock animal health courses cover herd disease surveillance, farm biosecurity and movement control instead.

Why does stray animal management combine sterilisation with rabies vaccination?

Sterilisation slows population turnover, while vaccination builds immunity among roaming dogs, which are the main source of human rabies. Together with adoption and responsible ownership messaging, they reduce bites and complaints more humanely and durably than removal alone.

What do participants take back from the municipal animal control and stray animal management course?

Participants take back a Humane Stray Animal Management Plan for a case municipality, with a survey form, TNR colony template, shelter intake checklist, bite investigation record and pet shop inspection checklist adaptable to their own service.
