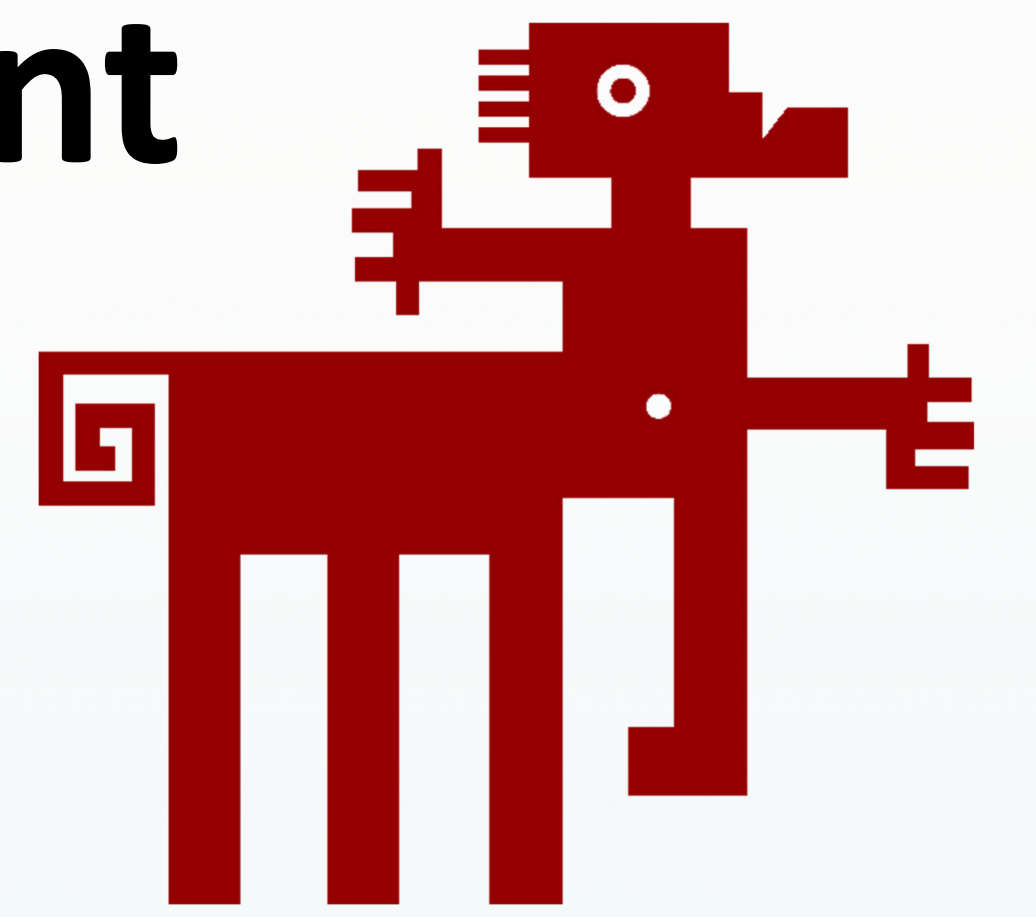


Descriptive epidemiology of dog abandonment



INTRODUCTION

Dog abandonment is a serious problem in our society today around the world. Number of abandoned dogs is similar year after year. There are different laws that protect animals but they are still insufficient.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study is to describe the taxes of abandonment of dogs in our territory comparing with other countries of the world. Also analyzes the reasons that entail this act and the consequences they cause.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Reasons why owners abandon their dogs

- Dog's behavioural problems
- Moving to a different place (country, apartment)
- Unwanted litters
- Economic factors (cost of maintenance)
- Allergies

Consequences of abandoning a dog

- For animal:
Starving, psychological trauma, disease, death
- For society:
Accidents, attacks, zoonosis, dirty areas, destruction of private property

In Spain from 2013 to 2015 there has been a decrease of dog abandonment but since 2015 the number is stagnated (around 105.000). Of the total number of dogs, 1.4% are abandoned.

In other countries the numbers are different. In Holland there are 0 abandonments per year thanks to the strict measures of the country. In Canada the incidence of stray dogs is 0,4%. Contrariwise in poor countries the incidence is much higher like for example Chile it is 7%.

Country	Incidence
UK	0,6%
Japan	0,8%
Canada	0,4%
France	1,4%
Chile	7%
Spain	1,4%

Table 1: Incidence of abandonment in different countries



Figure 1: Spanish stray dogs, 2013 to 2018



In 2015 in Catalonia, they were abandoned 20.924 dogs. Barcelona is the most affected territory (more than 50% of the total). Maybe by a higher population than of the other provinces. It represents an incidence of 2%.

Figure 2: Distribution of the number of abandoned animals in Catalonia

Characteristics

- Microchipped dogs are increased
- Dog abandonments are constant throughout the year
- The majority are adults. Puppies stay in shelters half as long as adult or geriatric dogs
- Just under half of the abandoned dogs are adopted, many animals will remain in shelters
- 6,35% of abandoned dogs are potentially dangerous dogs: considered long term in shelters

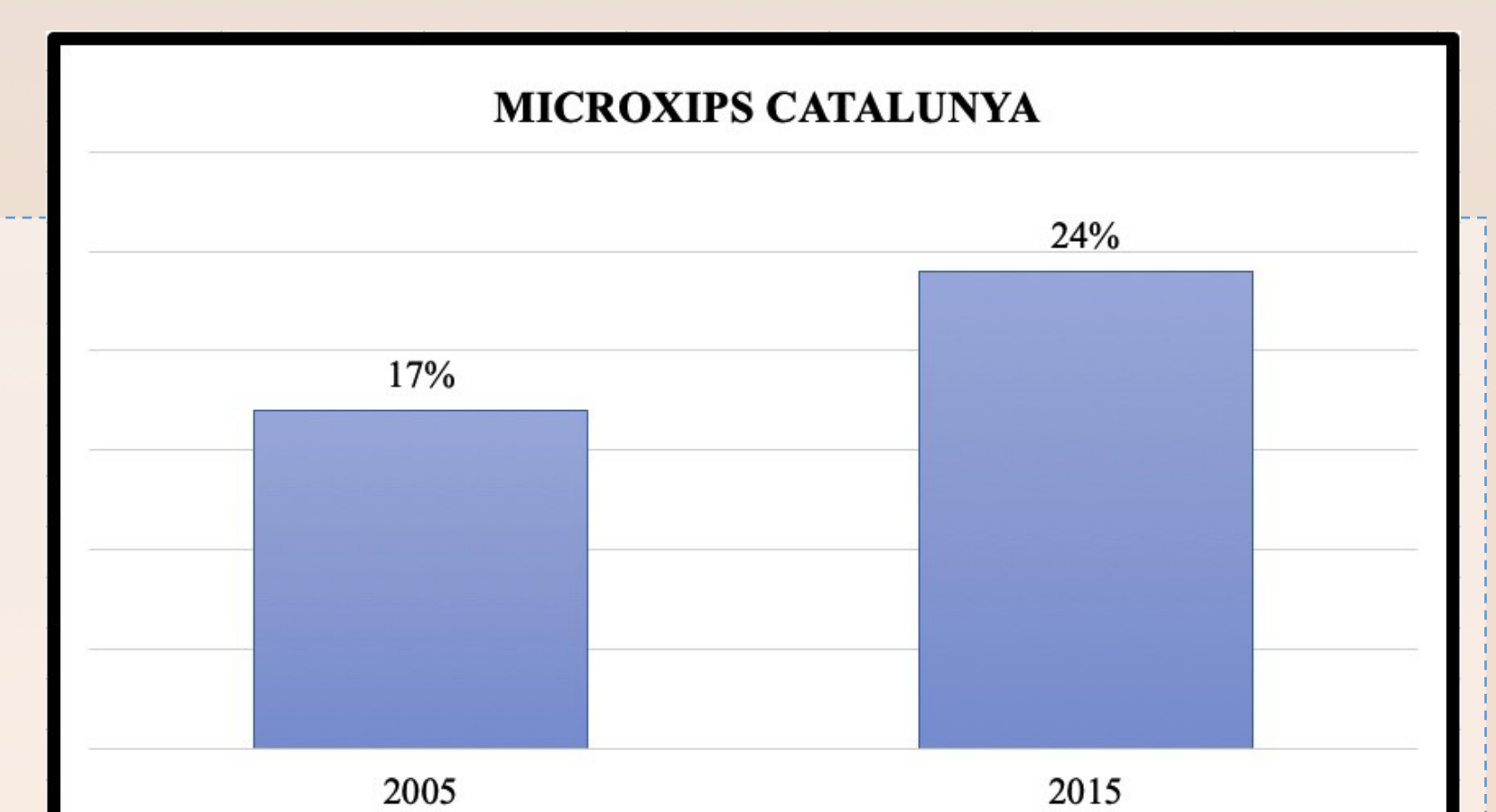


Figure 3: Dogs with microchip (Catalonia)



Image 1: Dogs carrying dinner to its master, Joseph Stevens (1846)

CONCLUSIONS

- The causes of abandoning dogs are different but in some countries they are often repeated (behaviour problems, lifestyle changes, cost). Some of these could be easily solved: canine ethology, castration...
- In our territory the situation is stagnant and the figures are similar in recent years.
- There are countries that have achieved a rate of 0%.
- It's important that the different states act with projects and changes in the laws to minimize abandonment.