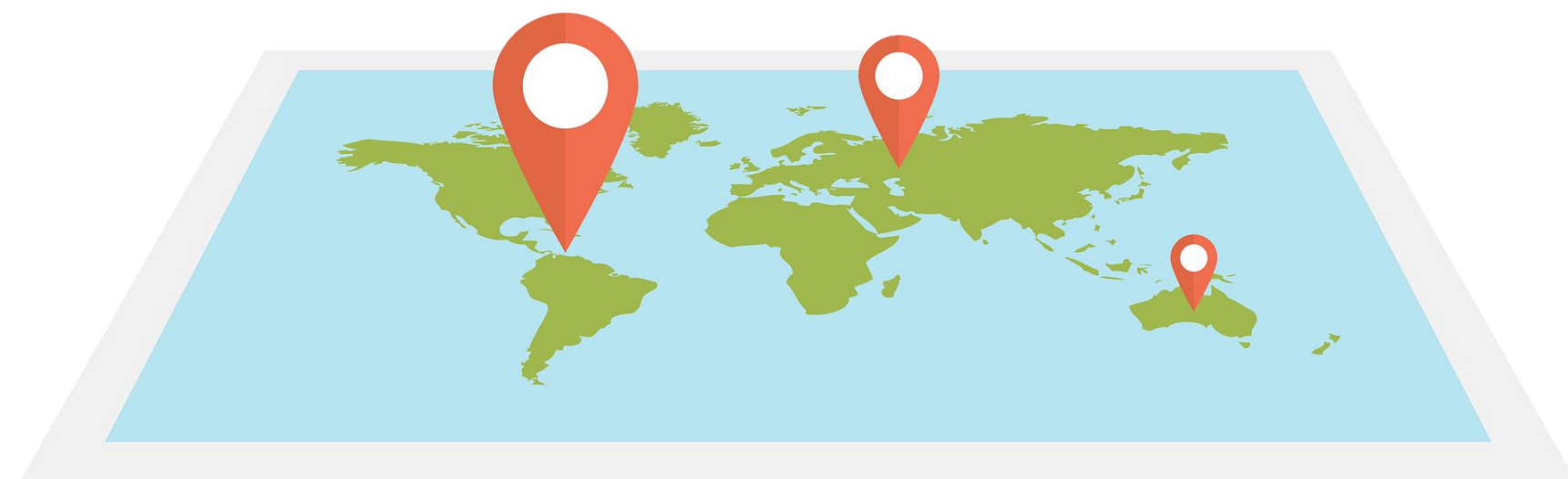


ZERO STRAY DOGS. POSSIBILITY OR UTOPIA?



Introduction

There are currently more than 300 million stray dogs worldwide. In Spain 104688 dogs and 33719 cats were collected in 2018. But the Netherlands became the first country without stray dogs. How did the country solve the stray dogs problem?



Objectives

- Compare Dutch and Spanish laws regarding to animal welfare.
- Analyse the actions taken against animal abandonment in Spain and the Netherlands.
- Propose measures.
- Raise awareness about the issue.



Results

THE NETHERLANDS

- Animal Sentience is formally recognised in legislation.
- 1.5 million dogs.
- Dog owners have to pay a dog tax, which is higher for store-bought pets.
- ↑ Sterilization.
- Animal Police. One Dutch city has 250 agents with specific training.
- The 2011 Animals Act is a strong legislative basis against animal suffering.
- ↑ Penalties.
- Supportive government bodies committed to animal protection since 2011.

SPAIN

- Animal sentience is not explicitly recognised in legislation.
- 6.3 million dogs.
- No dog tax.
- ↓ Sterilization.
- ↓ Agents acting against animal cruelty.
- Laws against causing animal suffering are not effectively applied.
- First government body committed to animal welfare was created in 2020.

- Identification of companion animals is mandatory.
- CNVR (Collect, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return).



Conclusions

The Netherlands is a leading country regarding animal welfare in Europe. Taking this country as a reference, the most effective method to solve the stray dogs problem in Spain is a combination of the following strategies: (1) increase the number of State-funded sterilization campaigns; (2) restrict dog breeding; (3) promote the adoption of dogs instead of buying them; (4) raise awareness for animal shelters through educational campaigns or school talks; (5) create an animal police with formation in that specific issue; (6) increase penalties for animal cruelty.

Nowadays, in Spain there's legislation regarding to animal welfare, but it's poorly enforced. We must have social, animal and environmental responsibility.