

Extract from the PowerPoint Presentation  
The ABC-Program in India

**Responses to the Stray Dog Issue**

- Ignore
- Kill the excess animals
- Influence the “Holding Capacity”
- Spaying / Neutering programme
- Educational programmes
- Registration of breeders

**What happens if we ignore ?**

Logic would dictate that the number of animals will keep increasing since dogs and cats are prolific breeders. In reality, numbers will level off at the “Holding Capacity” of the area.

**What happens if we kill ?**

There is an immediate drop in the numbers. However, the remaining animals will have a much higher survival rate and numbers will begin to increase. Numbers will level off once the “Holding Capacity” is reached.

**What is the Holding Capacity ?**

This is the number of animals that can be supported in that area depending on the availability of

- Food
- Water
- Shelter

**1996**

30 years after the Blue Cross proposed ABC (Animal Birth Control) and 29 years after opening our first ABC centre, ABC starts city wide in several cities in India.

**2001**

Receiving the success of ABC in places where it had been implemented as a pilot projekt, the Government of India introduced new regulations by which the killing has been stopped and replaced by ABC.

**Multi-Centric Rabies Study**

This WHO-sponsored study was done by actual interviews in 84 communities – 21 urban and 63 rural. Twenty one medical colleges participated.

**Major Findings**

Number of rabies cases more or less constant over the 10 year period 1992 to 2002 at 17,371 cases per year. Number of animal bites (mostly dogs) also constant over the same period.

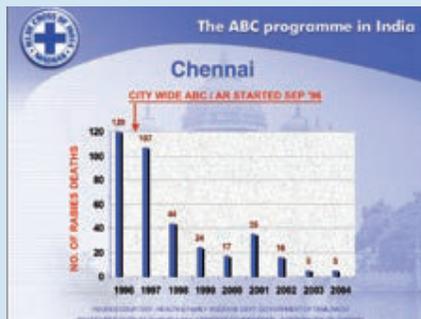
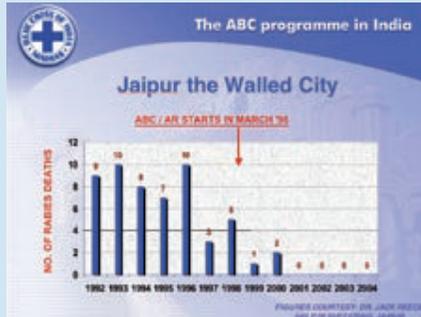
**Situation in ABC Areas**

Rabies cases in humans as well as the incidence of dog bites in those areas where an aggressive ABC-AR program is being implemented shows a dramatic drop in both the incidence of rabies as well as the number of dog bites.



**Success Stories**

- **Chennai**  
Drop of 96% in rabies cases
- **Jaipur**  
The incidence of rabies in ABC areas has been zero for the past 48 months as against 8.75 deaths per year during the five years prior to 1996 when the full fledged ABC programme started.
- **Kalimpong**  
Zero deaths for the last 30 months as against 10 per year previously
- **Bangalore**  
Both bites and rabies cases down sharply since October 2000 when the programme began.



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# Stray Dogs in Eastern European Member States

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- 1970-1989 – in Romania the demolition work let stray dogs roam freely in the streets and nobody took care of the control of reproduction.
- In Bucharest, Sofia, Budapest and Athens – there were specialized salubrity services belonging to public institutions which dealt with catching and killing stray dogs
- After the 1989 revolution, there was free access to information. During the first 5 years (1994), there were 10 organizations dealing with animal protection. I opened the first veterinary practice in Romania in 1992. In 1999 there were 36 animal protection organizations and more than 50 practices. Currently, there are over 130 organizations, over 230 practices and hospitals and over 60 private and public shelters for stray dogs.
- In 1995, Bucharest city hall founded the Administration for Animal Supervision (AAS), which was managed by me and became a model for all city halls in the country. With know-how from WSPA, RSPCA, VIER PFOTEN, the AAS conducted training sessions for its employees and set up dog neutering facilities. With the help of VIER PFOTEN, AAS set up the mobile neutering unit. VP declared the Ilioara veterinary surgery as the largest hospital in the country, with enough equipment to neuter 10.000 dogs in 1999. The neutering program was rolled out in series of 300 dogs per session. Several charities were involved, such as the one belonging to Brigitte Bardot.
- In 1996, together with BMT, I neutered 1000 dogs in Croatia and Serbia. Sadly, in Romania, the political factor negatively influenced the management of stray dogs. In 2000, VIER PFOTEN signed a partnership with the City Hall, in order to neuter all stray dogs in Bucharest. The mayor decided to euthanize all dogs, thus breaching the contract. All protests coming from NGOs were futile.
- Dogs were killed systematically and eight years later, the authorities realized that the method was inefficient. In 2008, the new mayor declared he was willing to resume the neutering program. Unfortunately, the ASA board did not have enough management training, in order to roll out the program. Thus, VIER PFOTEN proposed a public-private partnership with the city hall, in order to apply the program nationwide.

