

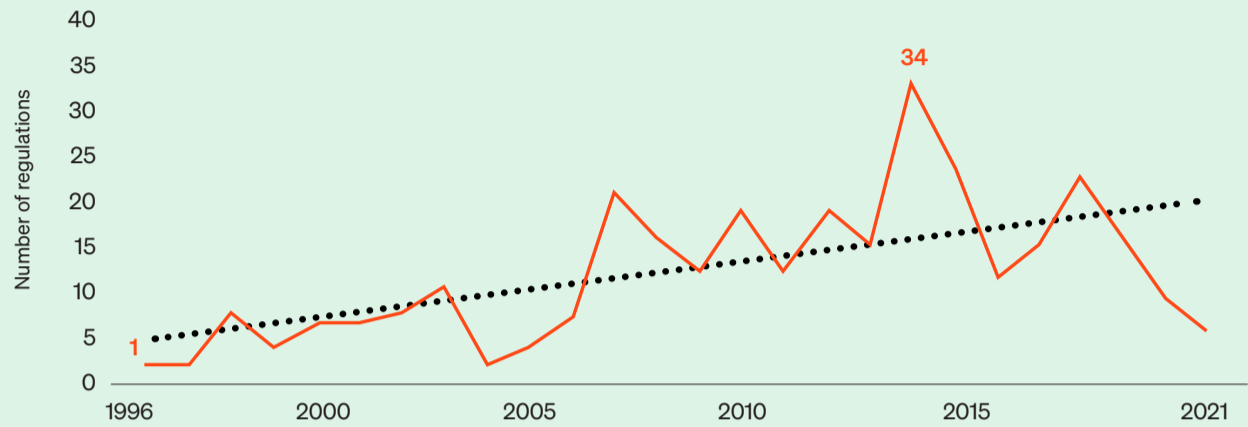
Animal welfare

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards on animal welfare to support Members to improve how they handle terrestrial and aquatic animals on farm, during transport, slaughter, killing for disease control purposes, as well as in research and for specific topics such as dog population management. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

An increasing number of national animal welfare regulations are being passed

336 regulations on animal welfare

originating from 58 Members were recorded between 1996 and 2021. More than 75% of them came from the European region.



Source: FAO legislative database (FAOLEX), 1996-2021

The implementation of standards on dog population management can be strengthened

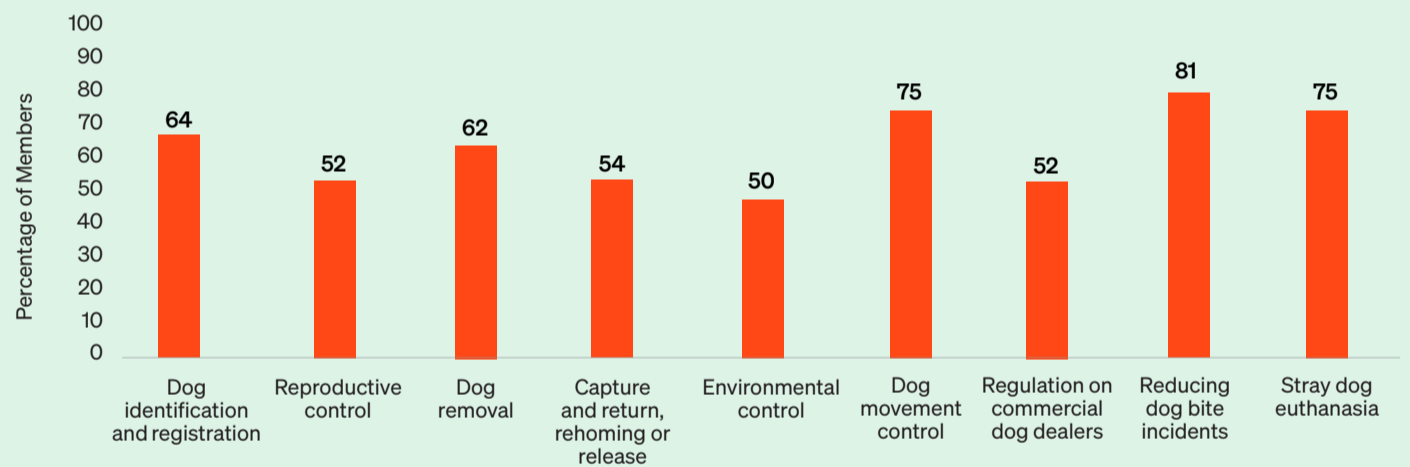
70% of Members did not estimate the number of stray dogs

according to surveys carried out in the European region and North Africa

68% of responding Members had dog population control programmes in place

69% of these programmes were monitored and evaluated

There is variability in the implementation of the different components of the standard on dog population management.



Percentage of Members implementing WOA's recommendations related to stray dog management
Source: stray dog surveys from WOA's Animal Welfare Platform for Europe, 2015-2021, 21 participating Members from the European region and North Africa

The capacity of Veterinary Services regarding animal welfare needs to be further improved

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions,

26% of Members have reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for the Critical Competency related to animal welfare

Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2016-2021 — Analysis of the Level of Advancement for Critical Competency II.13, from the 6th edition of the PVS Tool

Recommendations

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Intensify efforts to collect animal welfare-related information to accurately assess Members' compliance with international standards.
- Understand the issues faced by Members when legislating and implementing animal welfare standards.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOA's support.

Members

- Address the issues that prevent the regulation and implementation of animal welfare standards.
- Establish and/or strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of dog population control programmes.

[Access the full information here](#)

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.