



Key Principles:

IFAW's Key principles regarding canine rabies/DPM, providing foundation to Program Dharma design and implementation:

1. Rabies and its control is still the greatest threat to dog welfare on Bali. Program Dharma is a rabies control project, with vaccination, good dog welfare and humane population management at its core, to ensure community support and sustained behavior change.
2. Following baseline census and training led by T1s, T2s are the principle engagement mechanism, as members of their own community they are the most sustainable and influential source of ongoing education.
3. Dog population turnover is principally driven by owner behavior. Dogs leave the population through culling, natural mortality (commonly early in non-DPM populations, our first census desa had an average age of just 2.7 years) and abandonment. Dogs are then replaced by their owners, most commonly received as gifts, but also from litters of their own remaining females or purchased as puppies or adults. The vaccination coverage of the replacement dogs tends to be low.
4. Recent studies of dog populations (including a PhD study of two desas in Bali; Michelle Morters, Cambridge University, UK) suggests that non-DPM dog populations do not experience growth, as is usually assumed, instead their populations fluctuate around a number unconsciously dictated by the local community, and maintained through human behavior.
5. By inspiring and supporting better care of their dogs, Program Dharma improves dog welfare and owner-dog relationships. This decreases dog population turnover, as each dog lives longer and hence owners do not need to replace their dogs as often. This helps maintain vaccination coverage by reducing replacement with unvaccinated dogs. It also protects the veterinary investment (including vaccination, sterilization and parasite control) of owners and Program Dharma in each dog.
6. Improvement in care provisioning, dog health (in particular skin problems and ectoparasites) and owner-dog relationship reduces roaming behavior of dogs. Sterilization further reduces roaming, principally by reducing the number of females 'in heat'.
7. Confinement in cages and chaining is a welfare problem for dogs and may be resisted by owners, who witness the deterioration in their dog's behaviour and welfare. Humane confinement to the compound may be possible for some owners, for others, reducing the motivation to roam by improving care provisioning and sterilization will be the most viable option.
8. Blanket sterilization of all dogs is neither necessary nor desired. Dogs will die and owners will want to replace them. By leaving those dogs that owners wish to breed from entire, there will be a supply of local dogs for this replacement. Removing that local source increases a demand for dogs from outside the local area, increasing movement of dogs across borders and encouraging commercial breeding and sale.