



IZS ABRUZZO E MOLISE

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## “Shelter Quality” Project

'Tools for the assessment, classification and management of urban stray dog and cat populations'

# Welfare assessment protocol for shelter dogs

Training of the Assessors

International Centre for Veterinary Training and Information "Francesco Gramenzi" (CIFIV)

Teramo, 27-28 February, 2013

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## ***Introduction***

Stray dog populations pose serious public health concerns. To tackle this issue, targeted strategies are needed. A crucial topic strictly correlated to stray dog population management, concerns shelter facilities. No-kill policies lead to the proliferation of long-term shelters for stray dogs in many European countries. Gaps in the management systems and an imbalance between high numbers of dogs entering the shelter and low adoption rates, result in high percentages of animals that are likely to spend most part or all their lives in a confined condition. In this scenario, animal welfare becomes a critical issue. Welfare Quality® projects were successfully designed and applied to livestock animals. The possibility of applying similar systems also to canine shelter populations could be a fundamental step to ensure high quality standards of life to these animals.

This training activity is part of a wider project whose aim is to develop a useful and reliable tool to accurately assess the welfare of dogs housed in rescue shelters. The main objective is to identify and validate animal-based measures in an attempt to estimate the actual welfare state of the animals in terms of their behaviour, health or physical condition. Since welfare is a condition of the animal, animal based measures are likely to be the most direct reflection of their welfare state.

## ***Learning objectives***

The main aim of the project is to develop a protocol for the assessment of shelter dogs welfare. This protocol was drafted and now needs to be tested by different assessors working in different Countries in order to finally achieve a feasible, valid and useful new tool.

In order to standardise the assessments and achieve a high repeatability between assessors, it's first of all necessary to train the assessors that will participate in this activity from different country.

At the end of the training course, beneficiaries will be able to:

- apply the protocol for assessing welfare of sheltered dogs.
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## Contents

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Time	Subject	Tutor
8.30	Registration phase	Secretariat
9.00	Welcome address	N. Ferri <i>IZSAM</i>
9.15	Introduction to the training course	S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i>
9.30	Introduction to the protocol for the assessment of shelter dogs welfare	S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i>
10.00	Management based measures	C. Pedernera <i>IRTA</i>
10.20	Animal based measure – human animal relationship	S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i>
10.50	<i>Coffee break</i>	-
11.20	Animal based measure – clinical evaluation	C. Pedernera <i>IRTA</i>
12.00	Animal based measure – behavioural observations	S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i>
12.40	Resource based measures	C. Pedernera <i>IRTA</i>
13.00	<i>Lunch</i>	-
14.30	Introduction to the scoring sheets and order to carry out the protocol	S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i>
15.00	Repeatability exercise (using pictures and videos)	E. Di Fede, S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i> C. Pedernera <i>IRTA</i>
16.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	-
16.20	Repeatability exercise (using pictures and videos)	E. Di Fede, S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i> C. Pedernera <i>IRTA</i>
18.00	End of training session	-

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Time	Subject	Tutor
8.00	Departure from hotel	-
8.30	Visit to “Gattia” shelter Practice of the assessment protocol, animal and resource based measures	S. Barnard, E. Di Fede <i>IZSAM</i> C. Pedernera <i>IRTA</i>
11.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	-

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11.15	Feedback to the repeatability exercises and general discussion	E. Di Fede, S. Barnard <i>IZSAM</i> C. Pedernera <i>IRTA</i>
12.15	End of the training course	-

## Course Methodology

The training approach stresses the dynamic interaction between tutors and attendants, aimed at stimulating the active participation of both parties to the learning process.

This therefore means that the course not only draws upon the academic knowledge of the "expert" but also upon the experience of the trainees thus assigning them an active role in the training process.

The methodology defined thus drawn upon:

- Lectures by experts in the sector;
- Repeatability exercises between observers using a prepared set of photos and video clips
- Practical activities and in field exercises at shelter.

The training material delivered includes:

- A printed copy of the protocol and scoring sheets
- Power point presentations on dog welfare, animal, resource, and management based measures
- Golden standards.

## Course venue

CIFIV - International Centre for Veterinary Training and Information "Francesco Gramenzi", Teramo.  
Sede di Colleatterrato Alto, Teramo

## Scientific Coordinator

**Nicola Ferri**

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## **Tutors**

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## **List of participants**

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