

The Public health effects of Stray dogs on Community in Mogadishu – Somalia

Moktar Omar sheikh Mohamed, ahmed abdi hassan, osman Hassan afrah, shafi I abdalla moahmed

Somali national university, Somalia.

Abstract

The study title was public health effects of stray dogs on the community in Mogadishu – Somalia, this research has been conducted since the un-owned dogs were increasing in the recent years in Mogadishu city, so the study generally focused on the health effects of the stray on the community in Mogadishu and specifically (1) common health problems such as zoonotic diseases e.g. rabies, dog bite injuries and (2) management of the stray dog populations in the city.

This is a cross-sectional study which was conducted in Mogadishu specially four districts (Howl-wadag, Abdi-Aziz, Darkenley and Hamar-weyne) randomly selected, in which quantitative technique was used. It specified the objectives of the study through systematic data collection that deal with the study of the research. The quantitative data was used through the collection of standardized questionnaire to explore the public health effects of stray dogs on the community in Mogadishu – Somalia and the data collected was analyzed in SPSS 20 version.

the major respondents 296 (74.0%) agreed that, the stray dogs threat to human health, the majority of respondents 236(59.0%) stated that, the stray dogs do more in their areas, the most respondents 352(88.0%) told that, the rabies is present or they heard it in the in their areas, the major health problem in stray dogs is injury in their bodies 132(33.0%), skin disease 116(29.0%), parasite infection 72(18.0%), 40(10.0%) malnutrition 40(10.0%) no health problem, The health problems caused by the stray dogs were bite injuries 144(36.0%), Pollution of environment 108(27.0%), fear of rabies 84(21.0%), and Aggressiveness 64(16.0%) of the respondents as problem of stray dog to the community in their areas. The majority of respondents 268(67.0%) stated that, the stray dog population can be controlled, the stray population can be controlled by removing from the city 180(45.0%), birth control 115 2(38.0%) and killing method 68(17.0%). the most of the participants 308(77.0%) told, that they seek help to reduce the problem, if they faced any problem of stray dog. Finally the researcher is recommending improving health and welfare of owned and stray dog population and the stray dog populations should control by using mass vaccination program or by using the five tools of the stray dog management program

Introduction

Stray animals is an animal under human care which is not under permanent control or supervision of any natural person or a keeper and which moves freely outside its accommodation, enclosure or outside the household of its keeper, whereas abandoned animal is

any animal originally under human care which is not under direct control or supervision of a natural person or a keeper, and the facts established indicate that its keeper abandoned it with the intention of getting rid of it or banishing it (Voslár-vá et al, 2012).

Stray dogs according to the OIE (2009) are defined as any free-roaming dog not under direct control or restriction at a particular time or a free-roaming dog with no owner. Strays may also include the quasi-owned animals that are cared for or considered to belong to the "neighborhood" (Childs J et al., 1998).

The global population of domestic dogs is estimated at 703.3 million (Hughes, J, et al, 2013). This number is growing fast. A total of 361 million dogs are estimated to live in Asia, 102.2 million in Latin America and the Caribbean, 87.6 million in Africa, 74.3 million in Europe, and 72.6 million in North America (Hughes, J, et al, 2013). The USA alone has an estimated dog population of 66.8 million (Hughes, J, et al), 2013, and India an estimated population of 118 million (Wallace, R.M. et al, 2017). Abandoned dogs may negatively affect people's lives in a number of ways and can pose risks to human health (e.g. dog bites, transmitting zoonoses such as rabies, echinococcosis/hydatidosis, and leishmaniasis) (FAO, et al, 2011). The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are more than 200 million stray dogs worldwide and that every year, 55,000 people die from rabies. Detroit ranked sixth last year for dog attacks in the U.S (Patti S, 2011).

Already since 1975, there has been a constantly growing awareness of the impact of both urban pet and stray dogs on the general wellbeing of the public and its health. Extensive populations of free-roaming dogs can cause issues to public health through bites and transmitting zoonotic diseases like rabies or Echinococcosis (Kachani and Heath, 2014). Consequently, every year many people from all around the globe are hospitalized after being bitten or attacked by a dog (Morgan and Palmer, 2007). These bites do not only cause physic injury, mental trauma and economic costs (WAP, 2015), but also the risk of infectious diseases is high, as for many human infections the dog is identified as the 'major definitive host' (Carmena and Cardona, 2013). Especially unowned dogs are classified as being the most difficult category in dog population management when it comes to controlling zoonotic diseases (Kachani and Heath, 2014). However, also in more developed places, the threat of disease is high, as a result of the close relationship between humans and both owned and unowned dogs (Cardona and Carmena, 2013; Acosta-Jamett et al., 2010).