

A Review of Animal Welfare Protocol on Dog Shelter in Java Area Indonesia

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INTRODUCTION

The number of pet owning in Indonesia, especially in big cities around Java island are highly growing in the past few years.

This growing number of pet owning, especially in dogs, unfortunately, has become affected with growing numbers of dog abandonment and mistreated due to irresponsible pet owners issues and lack of law enforcement of animal welfare and animal cruelty law. This affected to growing number of dog shelters around Java island.

Although there is still limited resources on the total population of abandoned dogs and dogs shelters in Java, many shelters reported that the numbers of intake and reports to their shelters are increasing.

Therefore, it is important the assets animal welfare in a dog shelter environment, to meet the standards of care in a dog shelter.

A shelter assessment protocols have been developed to measure the welfare aspects of the shelter by Barnard *et al.* [1]. In brief, the animal welfare assessment consists of three levels; shelter, pen, and individual level.

1. Shelter level

Consist of management based information such as general information, type of housing, feeding, exercise routine, mortality rate. Animal based assessment which is emotional state of the animals were also recorded using Visual Analogue Scale method.

2. Pen level

Consist of resource based assessment including space allowance, bedding, evident of sharp edges, and access to water. The animals were also assessed whether there are evident of diarrhea,

3. Individual level

Consist of reactions towards humans, body condition score, hygiene, skin condition, lameness, and respiratory problems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research was done in five dog shelters in Java island. Shelter participants were collected through voluntary interviews with the shelter managers. General information of shelters were

collected including:

1. Number of dog population
2. Morbidity and mortality rate
3. Social housing
4. Exercise
5. Feeding

The collected data were then qualitatively analysed to describe the level of animal welfare in the particular shelter.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Despite of emerging local shelters in various parts of Java Island, risk of developing animal welfare issues by insufficient knowledge of shelter management can be found. One of the risk is the adequacy of shelter staff. According to Turner (2012), a rule of thumb for facility staffing is to allow at least 15 minutes per animal per day. This includes 9 minutes for cleaning and 6 minutes for feeding. However, this time allocation do not take into account time required for animal socialisation, medical treatment for sick animals, and also time for exercise. It was found that the time allocation per animal per day in the five shelters ranged from as low as 9 minutes to 100 minutes per animal per day. This is highly correlated with the type of shelters; whether it is privately owned and or it is owned by animal welfare organizations.

The results show that the type of cage from dog shelter is quite varied. Of the five shelters, all shelters have individual enclosures and group cages. Each shelter also has a separate enclosure or isolation enclosure for dogs that have problems or non-infectious diseases. The size of the cage depends on the number of dog populations owned by the shelter.

The range for mortality rate from all shelters was from 1 until 16 dogs per year, and the morbidity rate was from 1 until 5.

There are also a trend found in shelter that they are accepting abandoned dogs due to sickness which consist of 20% from their population.

Regarding the frequency of the feeding, all shelters was giving the food twice a day, and as much as 60% of dog shelter cooks their own food and as much as 40% provides commercial dry feed.

CONCLUSION

The method that were applied on this study was effective to obtain general informations of welfare situation in the shelter.

It is important this assessment to wider participants to get more valid information on dog shelters in Indonesia.

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