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## සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය சுகாதார அமைச்சு Ministry of Health

All Provincial Directors of Health Services  
All Regional Directors of Health Services  
All Regional Epidemiologists  
All Medical Officers of Health

### Guideline on conduction of Dog Sterilization Program

The guideline for the implementation of the Dog Sterilization Program within the health sector. It serves to ensure clarity and compliance with established standards and procedures.

#### 1. Planning

The areas that the dog sterilization programme will be conducted should be planned beforehand. The regional Epidemiologist should select the areas based on the unsterilized dog population, previous programmes conducted any other programmes that are scheduled and other relevant factors. The Regional Epidemiologist can seek technical support in this regard from the Public Health Veterinary Services.

Once the areas are planned the sterilization schedule should be sent to the sterilization team, area MOH and the Director Public Health Veterinary Services by E Mail. The sterilization team should not deviate from this schedule without obtaining prior approval from the Regional Epidemiologist. Any such approved deviation should be informed to the MOH and the Director PHVS by E Mail. At the RDHS Office, payment voucher should be cross checked with the approved schedule and the voucher should contained the approved schedule, approved deviation and the schedule of the sterilization conducted.

The district Rabies PHI should closely liaise with the MOH and the Range PHI for coordination of the dog sterilization programme.

#### 2. Target Population

Only female dogs are eligible for sterilization under this program. Sterilization should only be performed on puppies aged above 3 months. Veterinary surgeons conducting the surgery should be proficient in determining the age of puppies. For domestic puppies, verbal confirmation may suffice, while a physical examination of teeth can be utilized for stray puppies.

### **3. Surgical procedure**

The veterinary surgeon responsible for sterilization must assess the fitness of each puppy for the procedure. Complete removal of the uterus and ovaries is mandatory for both domestic and stray female dogs.

### **4. Identification and documentation**

Each sterilized dog must bear a distinctive mark for identification. This involves notching the right ear pinna and marking the code and serial number with a permanent ink. The code indicating the relevant medical officer of the health (MOH) division and serial number (e.g. Dehiwala MOH, DW 135) should be clearly written and visible on the inner side of the right ear pinna.

### **5. Certification**

The dog sterilization program must be conducted under the overall supervision of the Medical Officer of Health of the area. The Public Health Inspector (PHI) should closely monitor and supervise the implementation of the programme activities at the field level. Every dog sterilized during the day must be recorded in the prescribed record keeping format, certified by the PHI and submitted to the MOH for approval. The certification should bear the PHI's signature and stamp and approval should contain the signature and stamp of the MOH.

### **6. Record Keeping**

Dog sterilization records should be diligently maintained in duplicate. For domestic dogs, the owner's name must be recorded, and for stray dogs, the location of capture should be documented. The record should also include the color of the dog and the serial number marked on the ear.

Both the original and the duplicate of the record keeping format should be submitted to the RDHS Office with the payment voucher. The original should be submitted to the PHVS with the payment voucher and duplicate filed in the RDHS Office. In addition, photocopy of the approved format should be filed in the MOH Office and the area PHI. (Annex 1- Record keeping format)

### **7. Identification Card**

A card, sized 3x2 inches, should be issued by the responsible PHI on each day of the program. This card should include the date, center, seal and signature of the PHI.

### **8. Removal of uterus and ovaries**

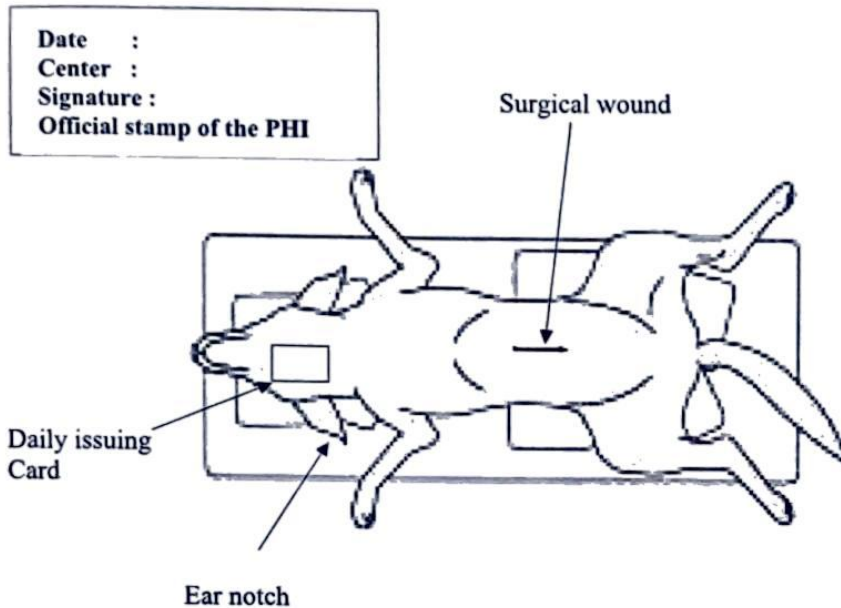
Complete removal of the uterus and ovaries is mandatory for every female dog. Furthermore, the removed ovaries should be clipped with a pin for identification.

### **9. Storage of ovaries**

The removed ovaries should be stored in a 10% formalin solution. One formalin bottle should be designated for each center.

### **10. Photographic documentation:**

A full photograph of each sterilized dog, displaying the surgical wound, must be captured. The photograph should feature the default date of the camera for accuracy. It should prominently display the notch and earmark on the dog's right ear pinna, with the daily issued card by the PHI positioned nearby.



**Figure: no. 01**

### **11. Labeling**

Paste a label on each formalin bottle containing the removed ovaries. The label should prominently display the center's name, the PHI's name, and signature of PHI for proper identification.

### **12. Certification process:**

At the end of each day, the PHI must certify the label on the formalin bottle with their signature and stamp.

### **13. Storage duration:**

The bottles, containing preserved ovaries should be duly handed over to the MOH Office after the PHI certification and be securely stored for 12 months following the surgical program.

### **14. Record transfer:**

At the end of each day, the original and duplicate copy of the dog sterilization record should be handed over to the Public Health Inspector. The PHI is responsible to certify it and promptly delivering the record to the office of the Medical Officer of Health (MOH), where it should be date-stamped for documentation. The record should be approved by the MOH by placing the signature and stamp.

### **15. Documentation and submission**

The CD/DVD compiled by the sterilization team, containing digital photographs of each sterilized dog should be submitted with the payment request to the RDHS Office. The CD/DVD should contain separate folder for each day containing the photographs of dogs sterilized on that date. The folder should be named with the date and location of the sterilization. The CD/DVD should be inspected by the Regional Epidemiologist to ensure that authenticity of different dogs being sterilized and if any drought, should be verified with the area PHI and the MOH. Subsequently, it should be submitted to the Director, Public Health Veterinary Services along with the RDHS's recommendation for payment.

## 16. Supervision

The implementation of the dog sterilization programme should be time to time supervised by the SPHL, Medical Officer of Health, Regional Epidemiologist, Regional Director of Health Services and the Public Health Veterinary Services directorate.



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**Female Dog Sterilization-Free roaming dogs' sterilization , Provincial Council.....**

<b>District</b>		<b>MOH</b>		<b>PHI area</b>	
GN division		Center		Date 202.../.../.....	
Serial No	Place where the dog captured	Name of the Person who captured the dog	Gender of the Dog		Signature of PHI
			Male	Female	
			Released to the same place where captured	If Released to another place	Died
Observations after the surgery					
01					
02					
03					
04					
05					
06					
07					
08					
09					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
Total Number of dogs sterilized		Successfully performed the surgery		I certify the above Sterilizations done under my supervision	
Male	Female	Veterinary surgeon		Recommended and forwarded	
		PHI		MOH	

**Female Dog Sterilization – Own dogs’ sterilization Provincial council .....**

District :		MOH:		PHI area:				Signature of PHI
GN division:		Center:		Date 202...../...../.....				Signature of the owner
Serial no	Name of the owner	Address of the owner	Age of the dog	Identity card of owner		Gender	Consent given by the owner If yes Mark Y	Signature of PHI
				M	F			

Number of dogs sterilized	Successfully performed the Surgery		I certify above Sterilizations done under my supervision	Recommended and forwarded
	Male	Female		