



## TRAP- NEUTER-RELEASE

Protocol:

### 1. TRAP

- Dogs are caught from a previously identified area by using either nets, trap cages or lassoes and catch poles.
- IPAN dog catchers catch and transport the dogs.
- The sex, colour and approximate weight & age are noted down as well as the area of catching.
- Dogs are taken to a shelter/preparation room for overnight.

### 2. NEUTER

- Surgeries (spay and neuter) are performed by competent veterinary doctors, assisted by a team of experienced staff.
- For both surgical methods, midline or flank, the same level of precautions in the form of PRE-operative LONG-ACTING penicillin injection and sterile working standards apply.
- Each dog is operated with a new set of sterile instruments (autoclaved), packed into a surgical cloth before sterilization
- Veterinarian wears a new set of disposable, sterile surgical gloves for each operation. If an assistant is needed to hold the instruments etc. he also wears a new set of sterile gloves for each operation.
- Vicryl is used for suturing and the suturing is done in three layers. All layers are invisible (e.g. the last layer is intracutaneous) from outside. There are no external sutures and no need for suture removal (NOTE: even absorbable suture material should be removed if external sutures are used or the risk for infection through the capillary phenomenon increases!)

### 3. RELEASE

- Dogs are released to the place they were caught/ in case of community dogs, returned to their owners the same day or the following day.

Philosophy:

Trap neuter release –method for ABC has the great advantage of less work in maintaining and caring for the dogs after the operations. This does NOT compromise the safety and welfare of the dogs because:

1. When released back to their own surroundings, dogs are less bothered by their healing wounds – when kept in kennels for days they are more likely to start licking their wounds, pulling out stitches to combat the boredom.
2. Kennels are generally difficult to keep sufficiently clean and dry to avoid wound infections – when given the possibility to “go home” the dogs will find themselves dry places to lie down.
3. Intracutaneous, absorbable sutures do not need to be removed
4. In the case of a community dog/owner’s dog it is crucial to bring the dog back soon to gain the community’s support for the project especially if the ABC program is new in the area.
5. The existing territories are maintained when dogs are not taken away for long times but released back soon to defend the area from unknown dogs coming from outside areas.
6. Sterile working standards and equipment, long-acting penicillin prior to the operation (IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GIVE THE LONG-ACTING PENICILLIN INJECTION BEFORE OPERATION BEGINS) and good quality suture material reduce risk for wound infections

India Project for Animals and Nature has been successfully following this method of trap, neuter and release for over five years. During this time, IPAN has operated over 4000 dogs in the Nilgiris district.

We have regularly demonstrated this method and educated veterinarians and ABC teams of other animal welfare organizations to use this method.