

Lessons Learned: Marking/ID study in free-roaming dogs



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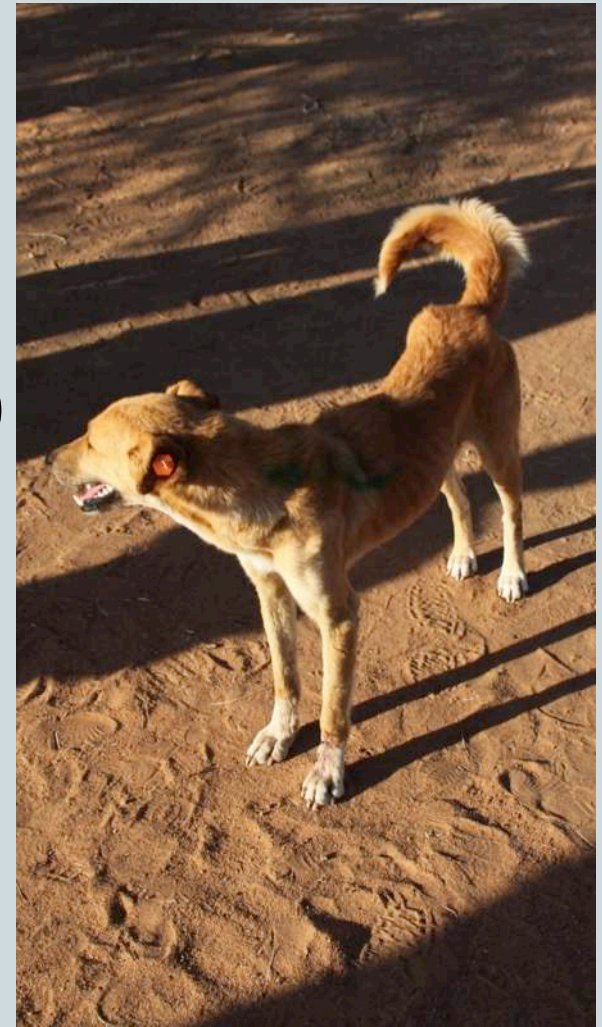


“Lessons learned: field studies with cats and with dogs”
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Visible identification for free-roaming dogs



- Evaluate humaneness, efficacy, practicality, safety of ear marker in conscious dogs using topical anesthetic.
- Study in dogs (with owner permission) in a Kenyan pastoralist community.
- “Piggybacked” on rabies vaccination campaign and dog demographic research study.
- Smithsonian Institution IACUC approval.



Lesson 1: Partnerships



- Invest in a site visit with potential partners in action before engaging in partnership.
- Carefully consider respective priorities and approaches.



Lesson 2: Empowered personnel



- Don't underestimate the number of empowered personnel with both study expertise and “buy in” needed to make a project go smoothly; skilled, humane dog handlers are especially important.



Lesson 3: Human behavior



- Essential to predict the myriad ways in which the behavior of people involved in the project or study (veterinarians, children, dog owners, etc.) can affect implementation and outcomes.



Lesson 4: Ethical decision-making



- Navigating ethical questions is hard!
- Where is the “right” place to conduct a study?
- How to balance benefits vs. risks?
- How to respect the interests of owners and protect the interests of their animals when the two are at odds?