



**UCLG CONGRESS  
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL  
AND REGIONAL LEADERS**

**New Generation  
of Universal Local  
Public Services**

**Tangier  
Local4Action**

# **The shared city: caring for stray dogs and cats as fellow urban citizens.**

## **Dialogue**

**Date and time:** Wednesday 24 June, 12:30 – 13:30  
**Duration:** 90 minutes  
**Lead organizer:** Patrick Gerard, ICAM  
**Co-organizers:** The International Companion Animal Management Coalition (ICAM; Battersea Dog and Cats Home; the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis))

## **Background**

Every city has non-human citizens. Cats and dogs live on our streets, in our parks, outside our shops, and in our homes, shaping public health, safety and communities in ways we often overlook. They can be happy, sad, scared, or sick, yet their needs rarely make it onto a council agenda.

This session is a chance to change that. Cities from Bangkok to Bogotá, Ramallah to Toronto, have found ways to care for stray cats and dogs that also make their cities safer, cleaner, fairer, more connected, and caring. They have shown that humane dog and cat population management connects directly to public health, social equity, community trust, and the kind of city people want to live in.

The session draws on the Metropolis Solutions Labs on humane dog and cat population management, a structured exchange between cities working through the same challenges in very different contexts. Bangkok's experience anchors the discussion, with Ramallah and partners reflecting on what the Labs have surfaced about governance, partnership, and community engagement.

Delegates will hear from cities doing this well, take part in live polling on how the issues show up where they work, and leave with policy approaches, partnership models, and community engagement strategies they can adapt to their own town or city. The session connects humane dog and cat population management to broader urban agendas, including public health, inclusive governance, and the Sustainable Development Goals.



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## Objectives / Expected outcomes

- A clearer view of how humane dog and cat population management connects to public health, social equity, and community trust in their own city.
- Practical policy, partnership, and community engagement approaches drawn from cities working through the Metropolis Solutions Labs.
- A sense of how cats and dogs as fellow urban citizens fits within the wider UCLG agenda on inclusive, sustainable cities and the SDGs.

## Agenda

- **Welcome and opening remarks** - Metropolis (Bianca Mozer Schonborn, Statutory Affairs Officer, or Jordi Vaquer, General Secretary).
- **Facilitated discussion**, moderated by Dr Elly Hiby, Director, ICAM, blending audience questions with her own to keep the conversation live:
  - Malvena Nimer, Director of the Health and Environment Department, Ramallah Municipality, on Ramallah's progress, the challenges that remain, and the value of knowledge exchange through the Solutions Labs.
  - Jasmine Herzog-Evans, Enforcement and Mobile Response Unit Manager, City of Toronto Animal Services, on Toronto's experience of the Solutions Labs. (TBC)
  - Roxanne Nazir, Head of Grants and Programmes, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, on the key lessons from the Solutions Labs and how other cities can apply them.
- **Closing remarks** - Metropolis.