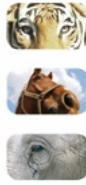
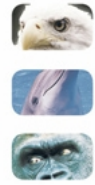


American Strays Canine Survey

Project Description & Timetable Phase Two



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Introduction

The American Strays Canine Survey (American Strays) is a research program that combines a canine survey / survey with a film study all produced by the World Animal Awareness Society (WA2S).

Background

- The city of Detroit holds more than 70,000 burned-out, empty, opened-to-the-elements homes, and these abandoned buildings are settling and breeding grounds for the city's stray population.
- There have been some estimates by relatively new rescue groups stating the stray population in Detroit between 50,000 and 100,000, and the Michigan Humane Society and other stakeholders in Detroit desire a number based on statistical sampling and facts.
- The presence of abandoned homes is impacting the safety and health of the human population with worries such as disease transmission, bites, and fecal contaminants.
- Dog fighting is a robust enterprise in Detroit and these homes provide breeding and dumping grounds for this illegal industry. American Strays is a two-phase program:
 - **Phase One:**
 - Citizen Outreach: providing weekly episodes* showing complexities of animal rescue through educational scenarios currently premiering new episodes every Tuesday. American Strays the series explores a different issue or highlights successes by one of the many stake-holders in each episode.
 - Rescue Partnerships: Michigan Human Society, Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society, and Detroit Animal Control and the burgeoning independent rescue scene made up of trained and untrained rescuers.
 - Initial survey of Detroit canine population in a sample of the 12 Detroit neighborhoods conducted from February 2011 through December 2012 – used as the reference template for Phase 2.
 - **Phase Two:**
 - Conduct a successful 2 day survey, replicate-able for an annual nationwide canine survey with WA2S as the Lead for data collection and principal producer of content.
 - Humanely tagging up to 50 stray dogs in predetermined spaces laid out prior to the Volunteer Citizen Scientists staging of the re-survey in late September of 2013.
 - Produce a feature documentary following dogs using tagging, drone filming, and devices to create a 'nature for HBO type' visual experience dynamically touching its audience.
 - To publish results in peer-reviewed technical journals and share methods and results with the University community, as well as government and non-government organizations.

Phase Two Procedure

- The World Animal Awareness Society team is using a "capture - recapture" Geo-tagged photo technique during the stray survey portion of this study to measure the "free-roaming" dog population.
- 200-250 volunteers will be led by team leaders in a two-day street survey using simple and hand-held technologies to monitor approx. 3 square miles each of Detroit for stray dogs.
- Volunteers will receive training by Dr. Brian Maurer and the MSU CSTAT Team before the survey day utilizing smart-phone applications that are being used in the survey and the data from the smart-phone's will instantly be received upon the discovery of each dog.

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- Through strategic partnering, American Strays will be using non-invasive tagging techniques of up to 50 dogs with Retrieval Collars**

Time-line (2013)

- July 22 to August 31: Up to 50 dogs tagged for documentary filming and data collection function
- August 25: Volunteer training for two-day survey and open forum
- September 21 and 22: First Annual Detroit Canine Survey
 - September 27 and 28: Back-up Canine Survey date, weather depending
- Mid-October: Complete organization and delivery of canine survey data
- Mid-November to December: Peer Reviewed article ready for publishing
- First quarter of 2014 deliver the completed feature documentary.

Technologies

- OSMTracker***: records all locational information of a user directly to one database on a second by second basis. Data collectors and users, to ensure correct survey location, will monitor the grid system set in place during the survey on OSM maps. OSM will transmit location at all times, and more specifically provide coordinates anytime a user takes a photo, video, or voice recording.
- DogDensity Database****: the details of the routes and surveys are recorded in the storage area from the OSMTracker information. This database will store and organize the data and be accessible to future organizations as a template for the survey.
- 3-D Software: this software allows dogs with unique markings or coats to be monitored efficiently throughout the data collection process as an identification tool to prevent double counting and confirmation of corresponding dog to data.
- Retrieval Collars: placing these collars on approximately 50 dogs will allow the feature documentary to keep tabs on the same dogs without human film crews interrupting the flow and the data from collars is a cellular transmission. These collars are the newest state of the art technology and will be placed through minimally invasive procedures such as sedative darts.

Long-Term Objectives

- American Strays will work to deliver results to Detroit government and non-governmental organizations in expectation they work to create new population management plans.
- To establish a nation-wide survey facilitated through the resources of WA2S in a survey template (toolkit). The toolkit will be on loan to organizations and synced with WA2S databases so as data is collected it is instantly streamed into WA2S's system. This creates a detailed report of all participating areas in one central location.
 - **survey Template: The Toolkit:**
 - The toolkit will include for example:
 - 50 Retrieval collars
 - Links to database software
 - OSMTracker/DogDensity user guides
 - Access to episodes and documentary
 - Volunteer training procedures
- By placing emphasis on a dog survey, the ultimate goal is a petition to the US Census Bureau to add quantity of cats and dogs per household on the 2030 census. The coupling of these goals will provide a detailed number of animals, domestic or feral, in the United States.

Informational Links

*<http://www.wa2s.org/american-strays.html>

**<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=me.guillaumin.android.osmtracker&hl=en>

***<http://www.conservationresearch.co.uk/DogDensity/DogDensity.htm>

****<http://www.retrievatracking.com/>

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