

The WA2S approach, particularly the methodology developed through the American Strays project, occupies a highly specific space in the landscape of animal welfare. By deploying volunteer citizen scientists equipped with spatial tracking tools (like OSMTracker) to build granular, block-by-block datasets in urban environments, WA2S pushed the envelope on what community-driven data collection looks like in the US.

When looking globally at entities conducting roaming K9 surveys with a similar emphasis on data-driven methodologies, the peers generally fall into three categories: large-scale international NGOs, specialized technical consultancies, and global standard-setters.

Here is a look at the leading entities operating in this space:

The NGO Peer: Humane Society International (HSI)

HSI operates one of the most robust, globally deployed survey operations through their dedicated **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Impact Assessment (MEIA)** team.

- **The Approach:** They are perhaps the closest operational peer in terms of scale. HSI conducts extensive street dog counts and density surveys, primarily in regions like India and Bhutan.
- **The Methodology:** Their field teams utilize digital mapping and routing on smartphones to collect data. This data is then used to establish population baselines, map density hotspots, and measure the direct impact of their Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Return (CNVR) programs over multi-year timelines.

The Technical Peer: Conservation Research Ltd

While they don't conduct the surveys themselves, this UK-based consultancy builds the architecture that enables field teams globally.

- **The Approach:** They focus entirely on the data collection technology, developing custom Android applications specifically for monitoring roaming dog populations.
- **The Methodology:** Their "Dog Density Monitoring" tool and "CNVR/ABC Project Database" allow local organizations to track the density of roaming dogs (dogs seen per kilometer) along standard routes over time. They are the technical peer providing the tools for the mark-resight surveys and welfare monitoring happening across Asia.

The Standard-Setter: The ICAM Coalition

The **International Companion Animal Management (ICAM) Coalition** is the peer organization that sets the baseline metrics for how these surveys should be conducted globally.

- **The Approach:** ICAM is an umbrella organization (involving entities like World

Animal Protection and the World Organisation for Animal Health). They do not run independent field surveys; instead, they publish the internationally recognized methodological guidelines.

- **The Methodology:** They standardize the mathematical approaches—such as the mark-resight method, direct line transects, and detectability modifiers (accounting for dogs missed during a count)—ensuring that when different organizations collect data, the resulting population estimates are scientifically sound and globally comparable.

The Methodological Peers: Global Citizen Science

While large NGOs dominate the funding, the specific *methodology* WA2S pioneered—equipping citizens with GIS technology to track populations—is being adopted by academic and research teams internationally.

- **Recent Deployments:** In places like Quito, Ecuador, and Arequipa, Peru, research teams have recently executed large-scale mark-resight surveys using trained volunteers equipped with GIS apps (like Survey123) and even remote Google Street View analysis to map roaming populations and evaluate density against socio-economic factors.

The global landscape is shifting from estimates and manual counts toward precise, spatially aware datasets—a transition that aligns directly with the foundational goals of the American Strays project.