

Analysis of the Views of Citizens in Relation to Animal Poisoning

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Abstract

The poisoning of animals is one of the top issues that owners of animals are faced with. The method the poisoning of animals can be intentional or unintentional. In most cases the poisoning of animals is unintentional. The main culprit is the owner of the animal that is careless in the use of chemical, toxic substances or plants that are later ingested by the animals. Deliberate poisoning on the other hand, is caused by people who intentionally poison the food of the animals. In R. Macedonia in January 2008 came into force the Law on Veterinary Health and the Law on Protection and Welfare of Animals (Official Gazette, No.113 / 2007) in which, among other things, minimum requirements are laid down for veterinary health, protection and animal welfare in various aspects among which is the poisoning of animals. The purpose of this research is to make a comparative analysis of the views of citizens who own animals and those who do not regarding poisoning. The research was conducted in 2014. According to the received data we can conclude that there is a difference in the views between citizens who own animals (80% are against the poisoning of animals) and those who are not owners (40% are against the poisoning of animals). From the conducted research we can conclude that there is a need for greater education of the population, especially those who are not owners of domestic animals, against the poisoning of animals and an introduction to the existence and functioning of the Law on the protection and welfare of animals in R. Macedonia.

Key words: poisoning, welfare, animal owners

Introduction

The poisoning of animals is one of the most acute problem faced by the owners of animals. The manner of poisoning of animals can be intentional and unintentional. Deliberate poisoning is caused by people who intentionally poison the food of the animals. Unintentional poisoning is the result of careless use of chemicals, toxic substances or plants subsequently ingested by animals. There are several types of poisoning of animals, including: lead poisoning, copper, arsenic, iron.

The most common poisonings represented in households are: alcohol poisoning, ksilotol, onion, human medications and opioids.

On the other hand, the most common poisonings represented in farms are: poisoning by chlorinated hydrocarbons, organophosphorus compounds such as pesticides and carbamates, amitraz and rodenticides, while in the poisoning with animal poison most common cases are: poisoning by snake venom, spiders and bee venom.

Guided by data from the available literature and the research conducted in the world the most common intentional poisoning is found in dogs and cats. Poisoning in dogs constitutes 75% of the cases, while in cats around 15%. According to the World Health Organization, the most common poisonings in dogs and cats include poisoning human medications, insecticides, food for people, rodenticides, veterinary medications, plants, disinfectants, heavy metals and fertilizers.

In R. Macedonia most common poisonings that are found in practice are: poisoning by rodenticides, insecticides, pesticides and food poisoning.

The world, as here, with the Law on the Protection and Welfare of Animals (Official Gazette no. 149 of 10.13.2014) minimum requirements are laid down for the protection of certain species of animals in terms of their breeding, care and housing, protection of farm animals in holding, during transport, slaughter or killing, protection for pets, animals in zoos and protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Law follows appropriate sanctions.

Materials and Methods

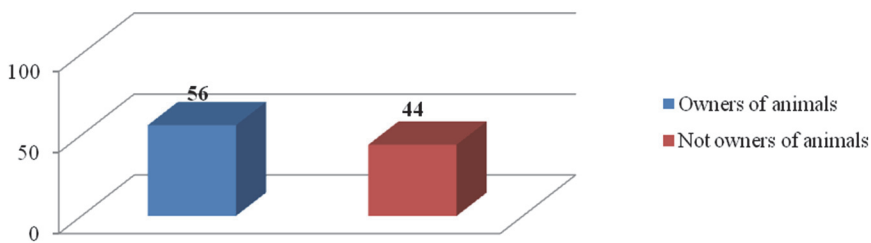
For the purposes of this paper a research was conducted to determine the views of the citizens who own animals and those who do not in regards to animal poisoning.

Using the method of comparative analysis the research is based on data taken from a closed type questionnaire intended for randomly selected respondents from a population of people who are owners of domestic animals and people who are not as well as veterinary doctors employed in veterinary clinics in Bitola, R. Macedonia.

Results and Discussion

In order to ascertain the views of citizens in relation to the poisoning of animals 100 random respondents were surveyed.

In Graph 1 the total number and categories of respondents who own animals and do not, are presented.



Graph. 1. Total number of respondents
Укупан број испитаника

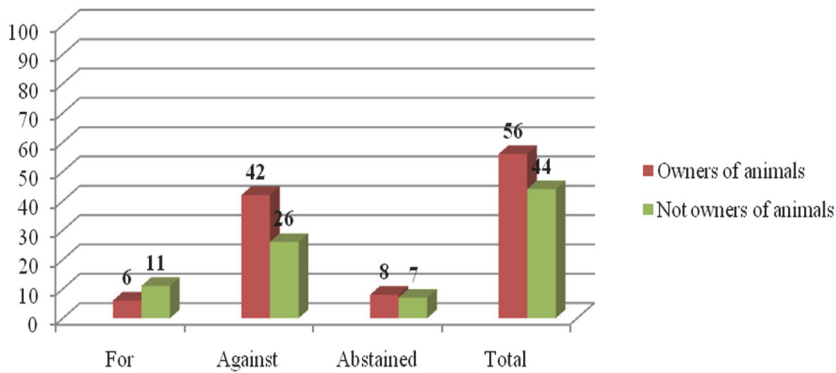
From the presented data in Graph 1 the total number (100) of respondents can be seen, where 56 of respondents are owners of domestic animals, and 44 of the respondents are not owners of domestic animals.

From the survey respondents (people who own the animals and people who are not owners) results in terms of their views on animals poisoning is presented in Graph 2.

From the presented data it can be noted that from the respondents who are owners of animals 6 are for animal poisoning due to their unpleasant experiences where they were attacked by a stray dog, while 42 are against animal poisoning and 8 are abstained.

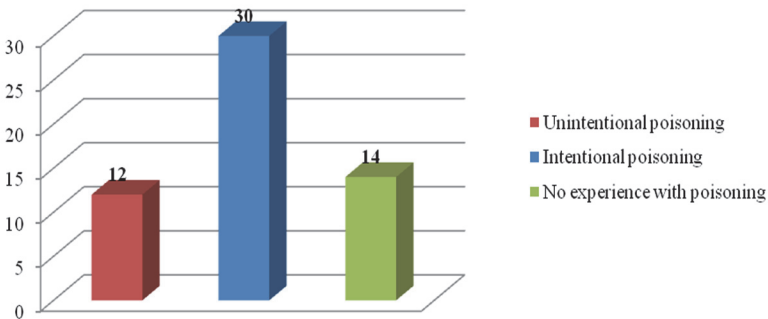
The views of the respondents who do not own animals are different from the previous respondents and 11 are against animal poisoning, 26 are for animal poisoning and 7 are abstained.

From the received data we can see that the number of respondents that own an animal, who are against poisoning is almost four times larger than the number of respondents that do not own animals.



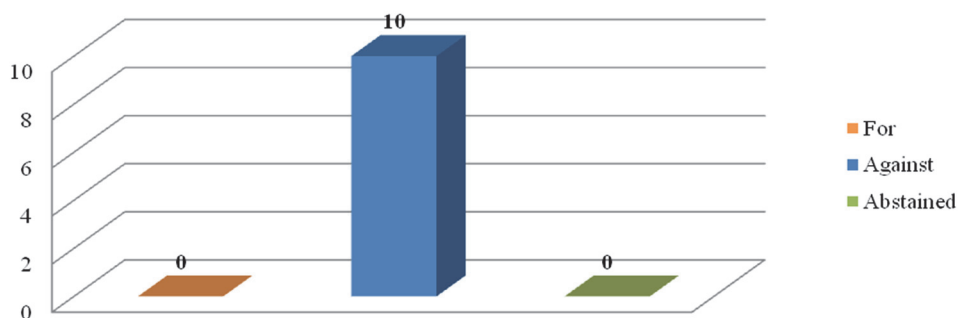
Graph. 2. Views of citizens in relation to animal poisoning
Ставови грађана у односу на тровање животиња

Due to the large number of respondents that own an animal which are against animal poisoning the need arises for further research on whether their own experience (if any) impacted on their attitudes toward animal poisoning. These results are presented in Graph 3.



Graph. 3. Experiences of owners of pet with poisoning
Искусва власника кућних љубимаца о тровању

From the data presented in Graph 3 we can see that from respondents who are owners of domestic animals 30 reported that their animal was deliberately poisoned, 12 reported that poisoning was not deliberate and 14 had no experience with poisoning. From the collected data it can be seen reason why the majority of the owners of domestic animals are against poisoning, because more than half of them were victims of poisoning of their pets.



Graph. 4. Position of veterinary doctors regarding animal poisoning
Положај ветеринара у вези са тровањем животиња

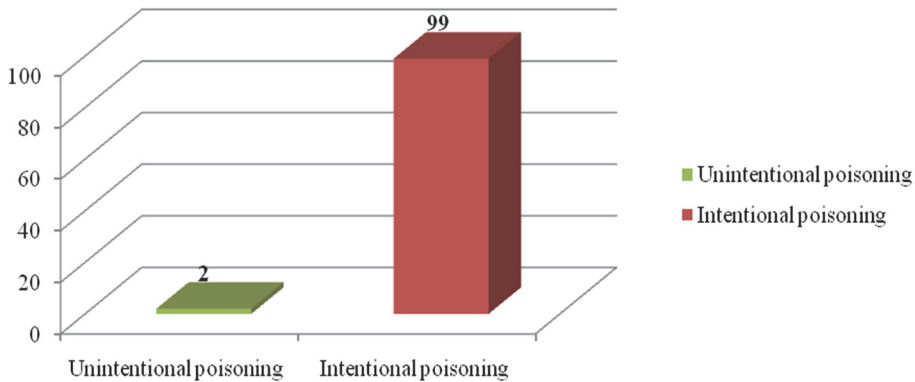
In the further research regarding animal poisoning veterinary doctors are also surveyed due to their encounter with animal poisoning in order to examine how many of those cases were victims of intentional and unintentional poisoning. To get a realistic picture on the personal views of the veterinary doctors regarding the poisoning of animals a survey was conducted on 10 doctors. These results are presented in Graph 4.

From the data it can be concluded that all surveyed doctors of veterinary medicine (100%) are against the poisoning of animals, whether they are domestic pets or stray animals.

The survey included the veterinary doctors in order to find out whether the poisoning they have encountered is intentional or unintentional, given the fact that the number of poisoned animals is relatively large.

Surveyed veterinary doctors are employed in veterinary clinics in Bitola, R. Macedonia as well as members of the association for the protection of homeless animals Small Heroes – Bitola and they are facing daily cases of animal poisoning. In the further analysis cases of dog poisoning in 2014 in Bitola are presented. The data is obtained from cases of poisoning that the veterinary doctors have encountered. It is presented in Graph 5.

From the analysis of data obtained from the statements of veterinary doctors, it can be concluded that in most cases the animal poisoning is deliberate, 99 dogs were deliberately poisoned and only 2 dogs were unintentionally poisoned. This data presents a concerning factor and therefore in the future it is necessary taking measures and educating citizens about the poisoning of animals and complying with the legislation of the Republic Macedonia regarding the poisoning of animals.



Graph. 5. Cases of animal poisoning in 2014 in Bitola
Случајеви тровања животиња у 2014. у Битољу

Conclusion

The poisoning of animals is a problem that we encounter daily. No matter whether it is intentional or unintentional measures are needed to prevent it. In terms of unintentional poisoning of animals more education is needed about the harmful substances that the animal may come in contact with and the treatments that are available in veterinary clinics if it comes to that. Deliberate poisoning however, is a form of animal cruelty and it is of special concern because it is a sign of psychological distress to the individual and often indicates that he was the victim of violence or is predisposed to carry out acts of violence. Some people are cruel to animals performing acts that they have seen by others, while some are doing it to retaliate against the animal or against someone who cares for the animal. For these reasons punitive measures are needed against those who commit acts of deliberate poisoning of the animal. In R. Macedonia these measures are prescribed with the Law on the Protection and Welfare of Animals (Official Gazette no. 149 of 10.13.2014) and usually are arrest or fine. Through education which can be conducted through the media, social networks, educational institutions, that need to be appealed to the increasing of awareness among citizens about the poisoning and abuse of animals as well as respecting the provisions of the Law on protection and welfare of animals.

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Анализа ставова грађана у односу на тровања животиња

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Сажетак

Тровање животиња је један од најактуелних проблема са којим се суочавају они који су власници кућних љубимаца. У највећем броју случајева тровање је ненамерно, где су главни кривац сами власници кућног љубимца, који непажљиво користе хемијске препарате, токсичне материје или биљке које љубимци уносе у себе. Са друге стране, намерно тровање је узроковано од самих људи који подмећу токсине у храну за животиње. У Р. Македонији у јануару 2008. године ступио на снагу Закон о ветеринарском здрављу и Закон о заштити и добробити животиња (Службени гласник, бр.113/2007) у којем, између осталог, су прописани минимални услови за ветеринарску здравствену заштиту и добробит животиња у погледу различитих аспеката њиховог гајења, те у погледу тровања истих. Циљ овог истраживања је упоредна анализа ставова грађана који су власници животиње и они који нису власници, у погледу тровања животиња. Истраживање је спроведено 2014. године. Према подацима можемо закључити да постоји разлика у ставовима између грађана који су власници животиње (80% су против тровања животиња) и оне који нису (40% против тровања животиња). Из спроведеног истраживања можемо закључити да постоји потреба за већом едукацијом становништва, посебно оних који нису власници домаћих животиња у контексту против тровања животиња, као и упознавање, становништва са постојањем и функционисањем Закона о заштити и добробити животиња у Р. Македонији.

Кључне речи: тровање, благостање, власници животиња

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