



# OIE standards on dog population management and rabies vaccination (and other control activities)

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OIE international standards supporting self-declaration  
of freedom from rabies,  
and endorsement of official control programme  
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# Outline

- Introduction
- OIE International Standards
  - OIE Standard on Dog Population Management
- OIE position on rabies control activities
  - Vaccination
  - Other measures



# Introduction: Rabies still kills

- Around 99% of human cases of rabies are due to dog bites and unlike many other diseases, we already have all the tools needed to eradicate it.
- Rabies is one of the most deadly zoonoses. Each year, it kills nearly 59,000 people worldwide, mostly children in developing countries.

**RABIES STILL KILLS**



# OIE international standards

- The OIE provides science-based **standards, guidelines and recommendations** for the control of the disease in animals and to prevent its spread as well as standards for the diagnosis of rabies and the production of high quality veterinary vaccines.



# The OIE's scientific standards

- the **prevention and control** of rabies, including provisions for OIE-endorsed **official control programmes** for dog-mediated rabies (OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* [Chapter 8.14](#) 'Infection with rabies virus')
- **stray dog population control** (OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* [Chapter 7.7](#) 'Stray dog population control')
- **international movement** of dogs and cats originating from rabies-infected countries (OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* [Chapter 5.11](#) 'Model veterinary certificate for international movement of dogs, cats and ferret originating from countries considered infected with rabies')
- **diagnostic methods** and production of **vaccines** of a veterinary standard (OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Manual* [Chapter 3.1.17](#) 'Rabies')



# Guidance

- [Standard operating procedures](#) for official disease status / endorsement of control programme applications
- [Questionnaire](#) to provide guidance to OIE Members in preparation of their dossiers for endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies.



# Dog Population Management

- Chapter 7.7 on Stray dog population control → DPM
  - Broader scope
  - More holistic approach
  - Improve responsible dog ownership
- Support effective and sustainable rabies control programmes and control of other zoonoses
- DPM support in reducing population turn over and maintaining herd immunity
- Provide recommendations for the management of dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) populations to improve human health and safety, animal health and *animal welfare* and to minimise their potential negative socio-economic and environmental impacts.





# Dog Population Management: objective

- establish responsible dog ownership;
- improve health and welfare of owned and stray dog population;
- reduce numbers of stray dogs to an acceptable level;
- promote responsible ownership;
- assist in the creation and maintenance of a rabies immune or rabies free dog population;
- reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases other than rabies;
- manage other risks to human health (e.g. parasites);
- prevent harm to the environment and other animals;
- prevent illegal trade and trafficking.





# DPM

- As a cross-sectoral subject, DPM requires a high level of engagement and collaboration between **Competent Authorities** responsible for animal health and welfare, food safety and public health, in line with the One Health approach.
- DPM require:
  - Governance
  - Legislation
  - Enforcement
  - Funding
  - Training and support



# Organisations involved in DPM

- Veterinary authority
- Veterinary services
- Other governmental agencies
  - Public health
  - Environmental protection
  - Education
  - Local authorities
- Civil society
  - Dog owners, dog breeders and seller
- Advisory group



# Recommendations for DPM measures

- *Registration and identification* of dogs
- Regulating commercial dog breeding and sale
- Control of national and international (export and import) dog movements
- Promoting *responsible dog ownership*
- Reproductive control
- 'Catch, Neuter, Vaccination and Return'
- Reuniting and adoption
- Access to veterinary care
- Environmental controls
- Education in safe dog-human interaction



# Specific consideration for DPM activities

- Recommendations for activities that may be required as part of the implementation of the above measures
  - Dog capture and handling;
  - Dog housing;
  - Euthanasia.



# Prevent human rabies by eliminating canine rabies

- Three key ways to eliminate rabies in humans:
  - **Mass vaccination of dogs** in infected areas – the only way to permanently interrupt the disease's infectious cycle between animals and humans.
  - Preventative vaccination for humans.
  - Administration of anti-rabies serum following a bite by a dog suspected to be infected.

**TO ELIMINATE RABIES, WE NEED**



# Vaccination

- Mass vaccination of dogs is the method of choice, as this is the only real way to interrupt the disease's infectious cycle between animals and humans.
- It is estimated that by vaccinating 70% of the dogs where infection is still rife, rabies could be eradicated in dogs and the number of human cases would rapidly drop to almost zero.
- Excellent anti-rabies vaccines for dogs, developed according to OIE standards, are nowadays available.



Information: <https://www.oie.int/en/disease/rabies/>

# OIE Vaccine Bank for rabies

- By providing high-quality vaccines, the OIE Vaccine Bank helps countries implement vaccination campaigns and contribute to the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies.
- Since its launch in 2012, the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank has already procured:
  - 12.5 MILLION doses of vaccines
  - to 22 COUNTRIES
  - mainly in ASIA and in AFRICA.





# Other measures

- The Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 (WHO, OIE, FAO, GARC)
- Important measures:
  - Rabies awareness and education
  - Development of guidelines and policy to prevent human death to rabies (at all level)
  - Support of appropriate technology and information tool
  - Integrated bite cases management (IBCM)





# Thank you

