

MALAYSIA

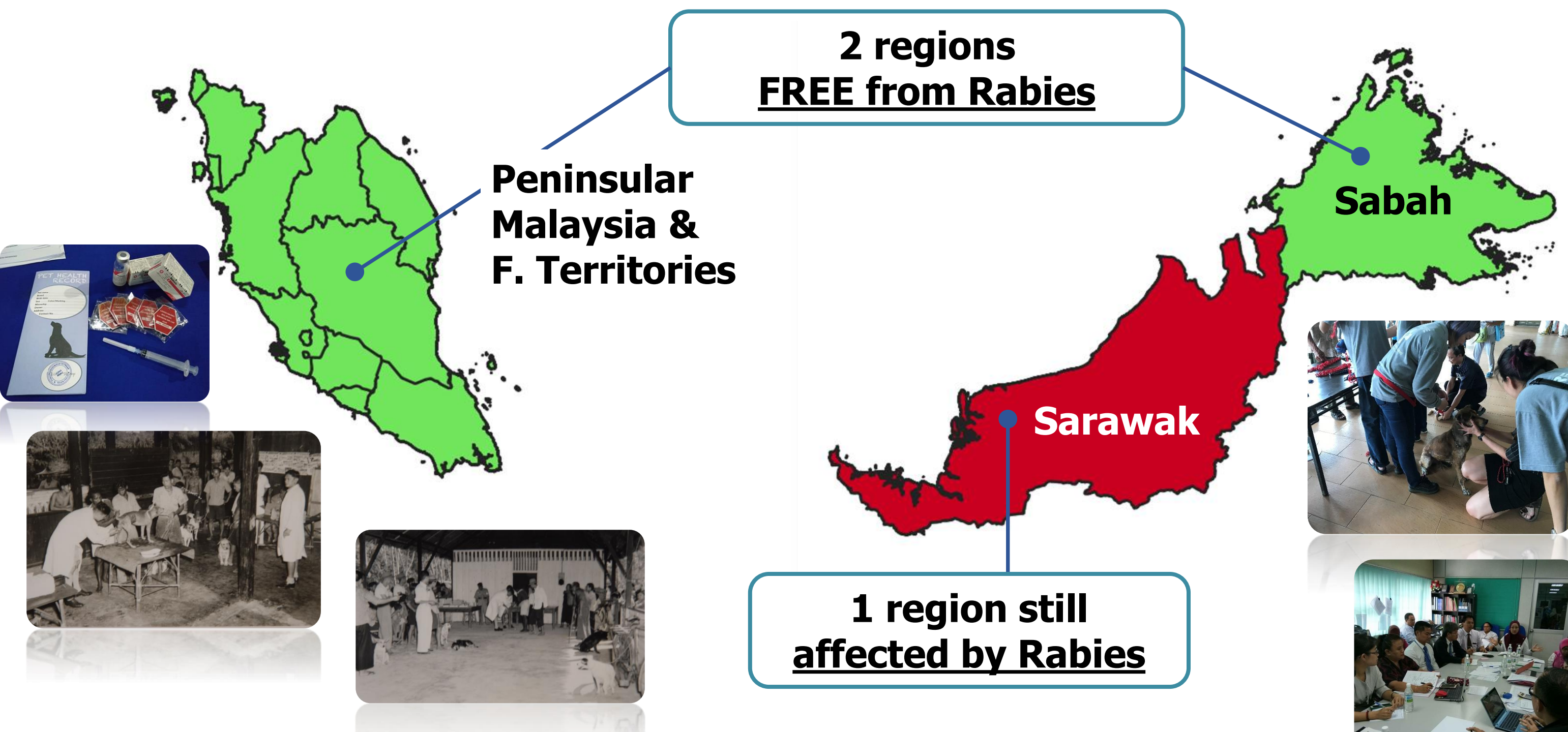


ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy Revision Workshop

Bali, Indonesia

May 2023

OVERVIEW

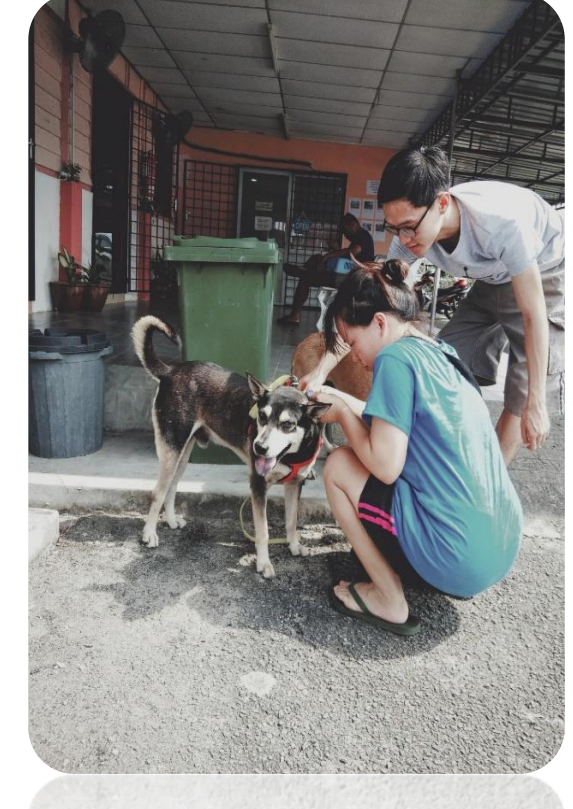


- National Rabies Control Program – started in 1955 - responding to Rabies epidemic in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur → successful eradication and self-declared free from Rabies by 2013
- Peninsular Malaysia – sporadic cases in Northern states 2015, 2017, 2018 (& early 2019) – successfully eradicated within 2 months
- Sarawak – was historically free prior to 2017 – now ongoing cases going into endemic phase

Approach for Rabies-free regions –

Prevention via enhancing protective behaviours:

- Preventive vaccination in immune belt
- Continuous public awareness (soc-med, WRD, seminars + animal welfare awareness)
- Continuous national active surveillance and quick investigative response on bite cases
- Inter-agency collaboration on dog population management, integrated bite case management, border security, dog licensing
- Risk assessment at potential incursion points – land, sea
- Field simulation exercises in high-risk states



Approach for Rabies-affected region (Sarawak)

– Control and eradication measures:

- Continuous vaccination campaign in all districts (mobile, house-to-house, centralized)
- Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET) for vaccination & dog population control 10 - 20km from Malaysian-Indonesian border
- Active surveillance and investigation on bite/suspected rabid cases
- Continuous public awareness – what to do if being bitten, Rabies dangers, vaccination
- Compulsory dog licensing and microchipping
- Data sharing between agencies

CHALLENGES

- Pandemic fatigue, public awareness and protective behaviour apathy
- Breakdown in continuous collaboration with other agencies, loss of awareness (staff turnover)
- Concurrent disease outbreaks (human & animal)
- High financial support required for prevention, eradication
- Legislative framework – overlapping of authority between agencies



STAKEHOLDER ROLES

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
Dept. of Veterinary Services (DVS) Ministry of Agri. & Food Securities	[Animal sector] disease investigation, outbreak control response, surveillance, animal vaccination drive, public awareness
Ministry of Health (MOH)	[Human sector] active case finding, enhanced surveillance, training of healthcare workers
Local Government - including Municipal councils	Dog population control, dog licensing authority
State Government (including district administration)	Coordination and pooling of state-level human resources for control, eradication measures
NGOs and Associations – e.g. SPCA, MAVMA	Awareness on Responsible Animal Ownership, neutering drives
Public Communications Commission	Public awareness on both national and state level
Royal Malaysian Police	International border security

OPPORTUNITIES

- One Health emphasis on need for collaboration in prevention, eradication by local stakeholders - Authority, sharing of resources and cost
- Cross-border collaboration – Importance of addressing Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD) – domino effect between neighbouring countries



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND PLANS

- (For Peninsular Malaysia) Self declaration for Dog-Mediated Rabies freedom
- (For Sarawak) Rabies Elimination by year 2025