

The OIE commitment to eliminating dog-mediated rabies by 2030

Scientific symposium at the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut, Greifswald-Insel Riems

27–28 September 2018

Taking advantage of World Rabies Day, the OIE Director General attended the scientific symposium organised by the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI) located in Greifswald-Insel Riems to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the elimination of rabies in Germany.

She spoke on the terrible reality of rabies, which today still disproportionately affects children in poor rural communities, where awareness of the disease, access to dog vaccination programmes and access to and affordability of post-bite treatment are limited or non-existent. The OIE Director General asserted,

‘Dog-mediated rabies is 100% preventable, and rabies eradication is possible. Its control and subsequent eradication require sustained political will, community-level involvement and the commitment of financial resources at all levels.’

The elimination of dog-mediated human rabies is a public good and a perfect candidate for the application of the One Health concept. Since 2012, rabies elimination has been recognised as a priority of the Tripartite organisations (WHO, the OIE and FAO). We are collectively committed to supporting Member Countries in their efforts to eliminate the burden of rabies.

In May 2016, OIE Member Countries adopted Resolution No. 26. recommending that in the public interest, the OIE, in partnership with WHO, FAO and other interested parties, sustain its commitment to the elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030 and foster the political will and long-term social commitment to achieve this goal.

The OIE is a major contributor to the implementation of the Global Strategic Plan through the science-based rabies standards adopted by our 182 Member Countries. We should keep in mind that the international standards related to rabies also include, among others, stray dog management, vaccine quality and the operation of the regional rabies vaccine bank mechanism.

‘Optimising the supply of and the access to safe, efficacious and affordable dog rabies vaccines are key to achieving rabies elimination.’

The OIE Regional Vaccine Bank model has proven to be an effective stimulus for endemic countries by ensuring access to affordable and high-quality vaccines conforming to international standards in a timely manner. Since its creation in 2011, the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank has distributed **more than 20 million doses to 26 countries.**

Demonstrating progress is the most effective way to engage stakeholders and decision makers, and to encourage the sustained commitment of resources that will lead to the creation of an enabling policy environment for rabies elimination. In order to establish demonstrable and meaningful performance metrics, surveillance and reporting of rabies in human and animals need to be enhanced at the national, regional and global levels.

‘*We all have a role to play in achieving the shared goal of global rabies elimination. The time is now.*’

During her visit to the FLI, the OIE Director General also took the opportunity to recognise the valuable and continuous support of the OIE Reference Laboratories for Rabies network and in particular, that of the FLI, which has greatly assisted the OIE and our Member Countries since its designation as an OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies in 1991. Experts have contributed to updating OIE standards on rabies in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, and to improving rabies diagnosis and control through the development of diagnostic tests and the provision of expert technical advice and training. Scientific expertise provided by the OIE Reference Laboratories network is highly esteemed and the OIE is grateful for the continuous contribution of the rabies experts at the FLI.

More information : [FLI press release](#)

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