

# Ad hoc Group on the evaluation of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members

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Virtual

8 - 9 November 2022

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A virtual meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members for WOAHA endorsement (hereafter the Group) was held on 8 and 9 November 2022.

## **1. Opening**

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General for International Standards and Science of WOAHA, welcomed the Group and the representative of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (hereafter the Scientific Commission). Dr Arroyo thanked the experts for their availability and contribution to the work of WOAHA and extended her appreciation to their institutes and national governments for allowing their participation. Dr Arroyo highlighted the importance of the procedure for official recognition of animal health status and for endorsement of official control programmes and thanked the Group for its contribution to this important mandate of WOAHA.

According to the established WOAHA procedures, she reminded the Group of the confidentiality of the information and declaring potential conflict of interest. She also mentioned that if any members of the Group had any conflict of interest in the evaluation of a dossier, the expert(s) should withdraw from the discussions and decision-making of the particular application.

Dr Arroyo encouraged the Group to provide detailed feedback identifying the main gaps and points for improvement to the applicant Member in case of a negative outcome. She also asked the Group to provide informative recommendations on the work plan and performance indicators to support the Member in making good progress along the endorsed programme, if the outcome would be positive.

The experts and WOAHA welcomed Dr Katinka de Balogh as a new member of the Group.

## **2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of Chairperson and Rapporteur**

Dr Gideon Brückner chaired the Group, and Dr Katinka de Balogh acted as rapporteur with the support of WOAHA Secretariat. The Group endorsed the proposed agenda.

The terms of reference, agenda and list of participants are presented as Appendices 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

The Group acknowledged and thanked Dr Thomas Muller for assessing and providing his comments in written format in advance, as he could not attend the meeting due to another professional commitment.

WOAHA and the Group reviewed the declared interests, and it was agreed that none represented a potential conflict in evaluating the application at this meeting.

## **3. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of its official control programme for dog-mediated rabies**

### **Zambia**

In September 2022, Zambia submitted a dossier to WOAHA for the endorsement of its official control programme for dog-mediated rabies. The Group requested additional information and received clarification from Zambia during the evaluation of the dossier.

#### *i. Animal disease reporting*

The Group acknowledged that rabies was a notifiable disease in Zambia by legislation. The Group noted a clear chain of reporting in place and the responsibilities for reporting defined at ministerial and subordinate levels. However, it was noted, and acknowledged by the country, that the disease was underreported in both humans and animals. The Group also did not find sufficient information about the timelines from raising suspicion of a case in the field to completing the disease notification process at the country level. Upon the Group's request, Zambia attributed underreporting of rabies cases in the country to the lack of public knowledge and education on rabies.

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The Group noted that the latest six-monthly reports submitted by Zambia to WOA World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) are for 2020. The Group reminded Zambia of the requirement of regular and prompt animal disease reporting according to Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*. From the additional information provided, the Group was informed that Zambia submits reports of rabies in humans to the World Health Organization (WHO) through a weekly Epidemiological Bulletin. Zambia provided an example of this bulletin. The Group also strongly encouraged Zambia to report through the WHO Global Health Observatory.

*ii. Capacity of the Veterinary Services to control dog-mediated rabies*

The Group noted that four ministries – including the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Local Government and Housing, and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security – were the competent authorities for rabies control and prevention in Zambia. The Veterinary Services under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock has its presence at the national, provincial, district and community levels and is composed of three sections relevant to the control of rabies, namely: Field Services (for disease prevention and control), Laboratory Services (for disease diagnosis and research), and the National Epidemiology and Information Centre (for animal health monitoring and surveillance). The Group needed more information on the number of veterinary staff to implement the rabies-related activities to conclude whether Zambia could implement all activities described in its programme. In this regard, the Group considered that further information on available human and financial resources would be needed to demonstrate the Veterinary Services' capacity to achieve the indicated goals of the work plan. The Group requested Zambia to provide this information when reporting the progress on its programme to WOA during the next annual reconfirmation campaign.

The Group acknowledged that the legislation provided a basis for implementing the dog-mediated rabies control programme and that a Stepwise Approach towards Rabies Elimination (SARE) assessment had been performed, identifying gaps and challenges in rabies control. The Group also acknowledged the establishment of the National Rabies Committee with a multisectoral approach and the development of a rabies elimination strategy and communication strategy in line with the global strategic plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. The Group noted that Zambia identified some gaps and described the actions to be taken to address these gaps.

*iii. Applicability of the official control programme to the entire country*

Zambia has developed a detailed dog-mediated rabies control and elimination strategy for five years (2021 – 2025) to be implemented in two phases: Phase I - piloting (2021 and 2022) and Phase II - roll-out for the whole country. The Group noted that high-risk areas were not described clearly but agreed that the official control programme applied to the entire country.

*iv. Detailed plan of the programme to control and eventually eradicate dog-mediated rabies in the country or zone*

The Group acknowledged that a dog-mediated rabies control and elimination strategy was developed and piloted in 2021 to eliminate human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

The Group noted that the programme's implementation would follow a phased approach with a pilot project for the first two years (2021-2022) in three provinces which would then be scaled up to the rest of the country. Whilst the Group acknowledged a general description of the phased approach, it noted that it was not described in detail in the dossier. Furthermore, the Group observed that the activities described in the work plan did not reflect this phased approach as explained in the dossier. The Group requested Zambia to describe all planned actions for progressing from Phase I to Phase II and to reflect them accordingly in its work plan when submitting the annual reconfirmation.

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With regard to dog population management, the Group noted an assumed population of 968,372 in 2018 based on Zambia's National Livestock Census but could not find the method used to arrive at this figure and underlined the importance of estimating the dog population size in accordance with Article 7.7.11. of the *Terrestrial Code*. From the additional information provided, the Group noted that a large-scale survey was being conducted in 2022 as part of a livestock census, but the reports were not available yet. The Group recommended making this information available during the subsequent annual reconfirmation to WOAH.

Furthermore, the Group noted that Zambia listed the general lack of operational funds to procure ammunition to destroy stray dogs and cats as one of the challenges in rabies control. The Group pointed out that this method was ineffective in managing dog populations and that any culling of animals must be fully compliant with Article 7.7.27. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Group considered that it needed to clarify how the unowned dog population would be monitored and managed. The Group encouraged Zambia to use a more robust dog population estimation methodology and principles of dog population management in line with the provisions of Chapter 7.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Group further noted that the timelines and budget breakdown needed an adequate description of the costs and logistical needs. The Group also flagged the need for more details on the dog vaccination plan and strategy, including an annual target of vaccination coverage and indicators and activities for monitoring, which is considered an integral part of rabies control and elimination.

Zambia also reported that the National Strategic Plan still needed to be signed off and approved by the relevant ministries. Hence, there were no funds secured for the strategy. Zambia informed that the adoption of this plan was pending the approval of the Eighth National Development Plan and Animal Health Policy for realignment. The Group expressed its concern about this apparent delay and highlighted that securing funding should be a prerequisite for implementing the programme rather than a strategic objective.

Overall, the Group noted that the aforementioned critical points and gaps as described in the plan should be addressed, including the revision the work plan and the logical framework by providing more quantifiable indicators of success. Specifically, the Group noted that the outcomes, objectives, and indicators presented in the work plan, and logical framework could have been more specific and tangible in terms of achievability in individual years of the programme and would require revision. The Group underlined that a clear timeline for achieving key outcomes with Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART) performance indicators is important for the successful roll-out of an official control programme.

v. *Epidemiology of rabies in the country*

The Group acknowledged the geo-spatial distribution of cases presented by Zambia as well as the capacity to perform molecular characterisation of isolates. Through additional information provided by Zambia, the Group noted that Zambia identified some key wildlife species (such as jackals, foxes, and hyenas) that could potentially play a role in rabies transmission. Upon the Group's further enquiry, Zambia confirmed that the Veterinary Services is working together with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), responsible for all wildlife, to monitor rabies in wildlife.

vi. *Rabies surveillance (Article 8.14.12.)*

The Group noted that Zambia had general knowledge and awareness of the disease in the country. In addition, Zambia confirmed that rabies was one of the five priority diseases in the country.

Zambia informed that the reporting of rabies surveillance information and data is paper based, but reports submitted by National Epidemiology and Information Centre were entered into the Livestock Information

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Management System (LIMS) database for data storage and management. Zambia clarified that a separate reporting system was in place for emergencies where outbreak information was submitted within 24 hours.

Zambia informed that rabies surveillance was conducted in collaboration with international institutions and other relevant national authorities, including the DNPW for rabies surveillance in wildlife. The Group noted that whenever DNPW reported suspicious cases of rabies in wildlife, the animals were killed, and samples submitted to the Veterinary Services for laboratory analysis. In addition, rabies vaccination campaigns were occasionally organised by the two departments when an outbreak in wildlife occurred.

The Group noted that there were approximately 20 animal samples tested each year, which is considerably lower than the global testing averages in countries with a WHO-controlled rabies status<sup>1</sup>. Considering that these samples were generated from field surveillance, the Group would have expected to find more information in the work plan on how the surveillance capacity would be improved to reach an adequate level.

The Group acknowledged that Veterinary Services worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Health for rabies surveillance and dog-bite investigation in humans. The Group also noted that an Integrated Bite Case Management (IBCM) project is being piloted in Lusaka province in Zambia to be expanded nationwide.

With regard to human rabies surveillance, Zambia mentioned that reports are collected weekly by the district surveillance officers. Of the past five years, Zambia only reported information on the number of suspected human cases for 2018 and 2019.

vii. *Diagnostic capability and procedure*

The Group noted that rabies diagnosis (confirmation) was performed in two laboratories, namely, the Central Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI) and the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Zambia. The Group highlighted that animal sample submissions ranging between 5 and 53 per year were very low considering the size and population of Zambia. The Group expressed its concern about only two laboratories in the country having the capacity for rabies diagnosis and pointed out that Zambia should ensure the accessibility of animal rabies testing for the majority of the population (allowing testing of samples within three days of collection). The Group further emphasised that this could be achieved through improved transportation networks or the establishment of additional laboratories. The Group considered that these actions should be more clearly defined in the work plan and budget.

The Group noted that in the event of suspicious signs or if a dog dies within ten days of quarantine and access to laboratory diagnosis is not possible, the victim must receive post-exposure vaccination and supportive treatment. Whilst the Group acknowledged that this was in line with WHO recommendations (Table 8)<sup>2</sup>, it was highlighted that post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) could be delayed only when an advanced surveillance programme is in place, in which trained professionals can assess animal rabies promptly, and there is reliable laboratory capacity; it is not clear if these capacities are present throughout Zambia and if these WHO-recommended criteria are part of Zambia's PEP guidance.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization = Organisation mondiale de la S. Human rabies: 2016 updates and call for data = Données sur la rage: mise à jour de 2016 et appel à la communication. Weekly Epidemiological Record = Relevé épidémiologique hebdomadaire. 2017 2017-02-17;92(7):77-86.

<sup>2</sup> WHO Expert Consultation on Rabies: WHO TRS N°1012: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-TRS-1012>

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The Group recommended that Zambia review and strengthen sample collection, shipment, and diagnosis and consider improving accessibility to laboratories. The Group requested Zambia to provide a clear plan for improving these capacities, including needs for the personnel, logistics, and finances when reconfirming in November 2023.

The Group noted that the test for rabies diagnosis has yet to be accredited. Zambia informed that there was a plan underway to achieve this. The Group acknowledged that the CVRI laboratory participated in an inter-laboratory proficiency testing scheme for rabies diagnosis in 2016. Zambia reported that ring trials would be conducted in 2023 with a WOA Reference Laboratory. The Group reiterated that in accordance with the recommendations of Chapters 3.1.18. and 1.1.5. of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, annual participation of the national reference laboratory in ring trials organised by a WOA Reference Laboratory was highly recommended as part of quality assurance as well as the participation of regional laboratories in the national proficiency testing scheme and strongly encouraged Zambia to participate regularly.

viii. *Rabies vaccination*

The Group acknowledged that vaccination was compulsory and different vaccination strategies were applied. Nevertheless, Zambia indicated that mass vaccination campaigns were rarely conducted. For surveillance, IBCM, and mass dog vaccination adopting the latest tools (e.g., a mobile application such as WVS, Rabies REACT, and Rabies Vaccine Tracker) are being piloted in the Lusaka district. Zambia reported a 70% vaccination coverage in the target areas of three provinces and how this was estimated. Zambia also confirmed that funding was secured for this activity through a specific project. However, at this stage, it was unclear how Zambia would achieve 70% vaccination coverage in the entire country and the funding sources to sustain the national programme.

The Group was concerned about the locally produced vaccine by CVRI and its compliance with WOA standards. However, in the additional information provided, Zambia clarified that the CVRI stopped producing rabies vaccine in 2018 due to challenges faced by using the old methodology. Should Zambia resume vaccine production in the country, manufacturing should comply with the requirements in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Zambia indicated that it vaccinates approximately 60,000 dogs annually under current logistical and financial resources. Per the work plan, the Group noted that Zambia plans to vaccinate more than 700,000 dogs annually by 2025. The Group concluded that this would require a significant increase in resources and a clear strategy for arranging the logistics; thus, underlined that this needed to be adequately described in the work plan and budget how this objective would be accomplished. The Group also recommended that Zambia provide more information on how vaccination of unowned dogs would be managed and requested this be submitted when reporting on the progress in the next annual reconfirmation campaign.

ix. *Emergency preparedness and response plan*

Whilst the Group noted that there was no national contingency plan specific to the detection, control, and elimination of rabies, a rabies response plan was under development to become available by the end of 2022, according to the work plan.

x. *Compliance with the questionnaire*

The Group acknowledged that Zambia's dossier was compliant with the format of the questionnaire.

*Conclusion*

Considering the information submitted in the dossier and Zambia's answers to the questions raised, the Group considered that the application was generally compliant with the provisions of Article 8.14.11. of the *Terrestrial*

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*Code*. Therefore, the Group recommended that Zambia's official control programme for dog-mediated rabies be proposed for endorsement.

The Group recommended that Zambia provide information on the following and provide documented evidence of the progress made when submitting the annual reconfirmation for its endorsed official control programme in November 2023:

- Description and a detailed plan on how the phased approach would be implemented in the next five years.
- Information on how the surveillance capacity would be improved to reach an adequate level of testing.
- A revised version of budget allocations for the planned activities for the next five years (the tools available on the United Against Rabies webpage could be used).
- Information on available human and financial resources to evidence the Veterinary Services' capacity to achieve the indicated goals of the work plan, particularly in relation to dog vaccination and animal rabies surveillance. Please include detailed information on human and financial resources secured (or planned to be sought) in the five-year work plan to achieve all indicated objectives in a timely and sustainable way.
- Evidence that the National Strategic Plan has been approved by the relevant ministries and funds secured.
- Clarifications and actions taken regarding the estimation of the dog population and dog population management in accordance with Chapter 7.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
- Communication plan – evidence on rabies-specific awareness activities conducted/planned to conduct.

### **3.1. Addendum: Follow-up assessment by the Scientific Commission**

At its February 2023 meeting, the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) considered the recommendations above and requested further information on the areas raised by the *ad hoc* Group before making a final recommendation on Zambia's application. The Commission acknowledged an improved five-year work plan comprehensively reflecting activities described in the dossier and using measurable indicators.

With reference to Section ii. Zambia clarified that there were several resources, such as partnerships with the private sector, to tackle the disease. In addition, Zambia informed on various financial resources, including local contributions and partners providing support.

With reference to Section iv., the revised five-year work plan included more comprehensive information on how the phased approach would be implemented and linked with the described activities and how the progress would be measured in the next five years with annual targets. Moreover, Zambia informed WOAHP that the revised Rabies Control and Elimination Strategy for Zambia 2022-2026 had been approved.

With reference to Section vii., Zambia informed on the target number of samples to be collected and tested while already reporting an increase of samples during the first two months of 2023 compared to the full year of 2022. Furthermore, with regard to the plan for enhancing laboratory capacity, Zambia reported that the Veterinary Services had set up a robust plan to strengthen the diagnostic capacity of all veterinary laboratories in the country. One of the activities was training provincial veterinary staff in diagnosing rabies led by the national reference laboratory for rabies. Three of the seven provincial laboratories were trained in using the Rabies Lateral Flow devices, which increased the diagnosis of rabies samples in those provinces. Zambia further indicated that an extra capacity in molecular diagnosis had been built in the national reference laboratory for rabies that can now perform the direct fluorescent antibody test (DFAT), rapid rabies antigen test- Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and reverse-transcription quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) for rabies. These three tests are in the process of accreditation that requires participation in interlaboratory proficiency testing for rabies diagnosis. The Scientific Commission noted that Zambia planned to participate in the proficiency testing scheme with a WOAHP Reference Laboratory in the first quarter of 2023 and requested Zambia to provide information (i.e., participating labs, type of tests, results, etc.) when submitting the annual reconfirmation in November 2023. Furthermore, the Scientific Commission recommended Zambia to

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participate in national and international interlaboratory comparison tests on a regular basis and to reflect this activity in the five-year work plan to facilitate assessing the progress made for each consecutive year.

Considering the additional information and clarification provided by Zambia in response to the questions raised, the Scientific Commission considered that the application was generally compliant with the provisions of Article 8.14.11. of the *Terrestrial Code*. Therefore, the Scientific Commission recommended that Zambia's official control programme for dog-mediated rabies be proposed for endorsement.

#### **4. Review of the questionnaire for application for endorsement by WOAH of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies**

Based on the opinion of some members of the Group while assessing applications prior to the meeting, the Group discussed if and how the questionnaire could be improved and better harmonised with the existing resources like the National Strategic Plan to Control Rabies developed by the United Against Rabies (UAR). The Group decided to discuss it separately from the session and provide its comments and suggestions by December 2022 to be presented to the Scientific Commission during its meeting in February 2023.

#### **5. Other matters**

The Group was briefed on two tools that Members can use to calculate the costs for a dog-mediated rabies control strategy. The Group agreed that these tools available on the [UAR website<sup>3</sup>](#) and some others could be very helpful for Members to assess the costs of control strategies and help them in planning such strategies for controlling dog-mediated rabies.

#### **6. Finalisation and adoption of the report**

The Group reviewed and amended the draft report. The Group agreed that the report would be subject to a short period of circulation amongst the Group for additional comments and endorsement before final submission to the Scientific Commission. Upon circulation, the Group agreed that the report captured the discussions.

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.../Appendices

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unitedagainstrabies.org/resources-toolbox/>



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## Appendix 1 Terms of reference

### VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE EVALUATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR DOG-MEDIATED RABIES OF MEMBERS

8 to 9 November 2022

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#### Terms of reference

##### Purpose

The purpose of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of dog-mediated rabies official control programmes of Members (the Group) is to evaluate applications for the endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies of Members. In addition, the Group is requested to provide an opinion on the scope of revision of the questionnaire for application for endorsement by WOAAH of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies.

##### Background

In accordance with the [procedure for official recognition of animal health status](#), Members can have an official dog-mediated rabies control programme endorsed by WOAAH through the adoption of a resolution by the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) in May every year. A Member wishing to have its official control programme for dog-mediated rabies endorsed by WOAAH should complete and submit the relevant [questionnaire](#) and comply with all requirements specified in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* for [Infection with rabies virus](#). The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases ([Scientific Commission](#)) is responsible for undertaking, on behalf of the Assembly, the assessment of Members' applications for their compliance with WOAAH standards. The assessment carried out by the Scientific Commission is based on the recommendations formulated by a relevant *ad hoc* Group. *Ad hoc* groups are convened under the authority of and report to the Director General.

##### Specific issues to be addressed

The Group will evaluate Members' applications in detail on their compliance with the requirements specified in the *Terrestrial Code* for dog-mediated rabies. Based on the evaluations, the Group will provide its conclusions and recommendations to the Scientific Commission.

##### Pre-requisites

Group members should:

- Sign the Undertaking on Confidentiality of information (if not done already);
- Complete the Declaration of Interest form.
- Understand that the membership of the Group may be retained between *ad hoc* Group meetings to ensure continuity of the work.

##### Actions to deliver

###### Before the meeting

Upon reception of an application from a Member, the Status Department (SD) conducts a preliminary screening to check the conformity of the dossier (structure of the dossier in accordance with the SOP and with the [questionnaire](#), main sections of the questionnaire, regular notification to WOAAH, payment of the fee, Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) report, etc.). If an information gap is identified, the SD requests additional information from the Member.

As the PVS reports are bound by the rules on confidentiality of information of WOAAH, the SD and experts will consider for the evaluation the available PVS report(s) if not obsolete (PVS reports from more than five years ago) or confidential.

The SD will send the working documents to the Group, including the dossiers received from applicant Members, at least one month before the Group meeting (i.e., **10 October 2022**).

The experts can request support from the SD at any time.

The SD suggests the nomination of a Chair and Rapporteur for the Group's consideration.

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The SD can suggest a preparatory meeting with the Chair, the Rapporteur or all experts to address specific points in advance, if needed.

The experts are expected to:

- Be familiar with Chapters [7.7](#) and [8.14](#) of the *Terrestrial Code*;
- Evaluate and study in detail all dossiers provided by WOAAH.
- Take into account any other information available in the public domain that is considered pertinent for the evaluation of the dossiers.
- Summarise the dossiers according to the *Terrestrial Code* requirements by completing the summary tables provided by the SD (the summary tables will be provided at a later stage along with the working documents for the meeting). Experts are expected to capture and summarise in each corresponding section of the summary table the main gaps as well as strengths identified during the assessment of the dossiers, using extracted texts or reference to pages/annexes from the application.
- Draft questions to the applicant Members whenever the analysis of the dossiers identifies incomplete or unclear information.
- Submit to the SD the completed summary tables for each application together with possible questions for the applicant Members at least 10 days before the teleconference and preferably by **28 October 2022**.

The SD will compile the summary tables and the questions to be forwarded to the applicant Members before the teleconference. All subsequent information and material provided by a Member will be forwarded to the Group.

#### During the meeting

- Agree on the appointment of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting (the Chair will lead the discussion and the Rapporteur will ensure that the report reflects the discussion and captures the detailed assessment of the dossiers);
- Mention any potential conflict of interest and, if relevant, withdraw him/herself from the discussion;
- Contribute to the discussions;
- Provide a detailed report in order to recommend, to the Scientific Commission, the Member(s) and/or zone(s) to have (or not) WOAAH endorsement of official control programme for dog-mediated rabies, and to indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the applicant Members.

If during the teleconference the Group decides that additional information should be requested from an applicant Member before an informed conclusion can be drawn, the SD can request it and forward the additional information to the Group at a later date. The Chair is responsible for coordinating the finalisation of the assessment and for ensuring that the views of all members of the Group are taken into consideration.

Should the Group not be able to complete its Terms of Reference during this meeting, experts' contributions will be solicited after the meeting, including by teleconference if needed.

#### After the meeting

The SD will circulate the draft report after the teleconference is over. Experts are expected to contribute to the finalisation of the report within approximately one week.

The SD will circulate the final version of the report to the Group once endorsed by the Scientific Commission and is published online.

#### **Deliverables**

A detailed report to recommend to the Scientific Commission whether an applicant Member(s) should have (or not) its/their official control programme for dog-mediated rabies endorsed by WOAAH. The report should indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the Members. In addition, clear guidance regarding the need and scope of revision of the questionnaire for application for endorsement by WOAAH of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies.

#### **Reporting / Timeline**

WOAH will circulate the draft report no more than seven days after the teleconference (no later than 17 November 2022) and the Group will finalise its report within ten days (indicative deadline: 28 November 2022).

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**Appendix 2 Agenda**

**VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE EVALUATION  
OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR DOG-MEDIATED RABIES OF MEMBERS  
FOR WOAAH ENDORSEMENT  
8 to 9 NOVEMBER 2022**

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**AGENDA**

1. Opening
  2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of Chair and Rapporteur
  3. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of its official control programme for dog-mediated rabies
    - Zambia
  4. Review of the questionnaire for application for endorsement by WOAAH of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies
  5. Other matters
  6. Finalisation and adoption of the report
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### Appendix 3 List of Participants

#### AD HOC GROUP ON THE EVALUATION OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR DOG-MEDIATED RABIES OF MEMBERS FOR WOAHP ENDORSEMENT 8 to 9 NOVEMBER 2022

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#### List of Participants

##### MEMBERS

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Dr Gideon Brückner Past President WOAH Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases SOUTH AFRICA	Dr Katinka de Balogh Visiting Scientist Infectious Diseases and Immunology Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Utrecht Utrecht THE NETHERLANDS	Dr Pebi Purwo Suseno Senior Veterinary Officer Directorate of Animal Health Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services Ministry of Agriculture Jakarta INDONESIA
Dr Ryan Wallace Poxvirus and Rabies Branch Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Atlanta UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Dr Thomas Müller (invited, but could not attend) Institute of Molecular Virology and Cell Biology, Friedrich-Loeffler Institut, Federal Research Institute for Animal Health Greifswald GERMANY	Prof. Ehab Abdel Rahman Abu-Basha (invited but could not attend) Department of Basic Medical Veterinary Sciences Jordan University of Science and Technology JORDAN

##### REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

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Dr Trevor Drew  
Director  
Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness  
CSIRO  
AUSTRALIA

##### WOAH HEADQUARTERS

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Dr Min Kyung Park Head Status Department <a href="mailto:disease.status@woah.org">disease.status@woah.org</a>	Dr Yoenten Phuentshok Disease Status Officer Status Department <a href="mailto:disease.status@woah.org">disease.status@woah.org</a>	Dr Monal Daptardar Scientific Coordinator - Rabies Science Department
Dr Marija Popovic Chargée de mission Status Department <a href="mailto:disease.status@woah.org">disease.status@woah.org</a>		