Dog population management

Integrating dog population management for effective rabies control

Dog population management (DPM) is essential to achieve dog-mediated rabies elimination. This multi-faceted approach aims to enhance the health and welfare of dogs and mitigate the public health and safety issues that they can cause to society.

Over 700 million dogs worldwide 75% are roaming freely



What makes an effective DPM programme?

In the framework of rabies control and elimination, it is a prerequisite to ensure that a sufficient amount of dogs is vaccinated to obtain immunity at population level. To achieve this coverage, key measures include:



1. Vaccination:

- Ensure mass vaccination coverage
- At least 70% of the dog population in at-risk areas

3. Education & outreach:

- Raise awareness about responsible dog ownership
- Promote adherence to vaccination schedules

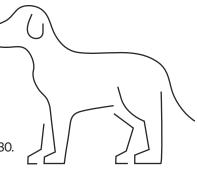
2. Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (CNVR):

- Prevent birth of new unvaccinated dogs
- Enhance dog welfare and life expectancy

When applied, these measures can avoid resorting to the mass culling of dogs, often carried out without respecting animal welfare recommendations.

Towards the end of rabies

Investing time and resources in dog population management undeniably supports the end of rabies, by helping obtain a high vaccination coverage amongst the root causes of the transmission to humans. Around 59,000 fatalities could be avoided every year, and this approach is a steppingstone towards our common goal of zero human rabies deaths by 2030.





World Organisation for Animal Health Founded as OIE

www.woah.org/rabies

Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 9/2023