

# 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



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

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



### 3. Education & outreach:

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



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.

