Global inter-sectorial collaboration in canine rabies control

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Rabies: The disease

- Fatal viral disease mainly transmitted through dog bites - 100% preventable by vaccination
- Every dog bite in canine rabies endemic countries must be considered a risk of exposure
- An estimated 22 million people exposed annually, ~60,000 die (mostly children)
- Elimination of rabies in dogs would reduce the current number of human rabies deaths by > 95%
- There is a significant lack of political (and financial) commitment to fight rabies at the animal source
Global rabies situation: Animal side

- Dog rabies continues to increase in some parts of Africa and Asia
- Rabies is a major zoonotic disease which is severely under-reported (at human and animal level)
- Control of rabies at the animal source is much cheaper and more sustainable at mid- and long-term
- Lack of awareness of the veterinary profession on the importance of dog vaccination campaigns and promoting responsible pet ownership / dog population management
Global rabies situation: Human side

- Dog rabies continues to increase in Africa and Asia
- Lack of awareness on all levels about
  - Need for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP),
  - Primary wound care
- Human rabies vaccines are not accessible or are too expensive
  - Rabies mostly affects poor, rural communities
  - Vaccines often not available
  - Delays in PEP result in death
    - Greater cost of travel
    - Delays because of need to raise money
    - Need to sell valuable food animals to buy live-saving vaccines
Policy makers’ trap regarding rabies

• High infectious diseases burden in general (animals and humans)
• Unreliable figures: Underreporting, misdiagnosing
• Limited experience in sharing of rabies information and coordination of control efforts.
• Separation of administrative and management structures -> impaired operationalization of ‘One Health Approaches’
Facing the complexity of rabies control

- Public Health Services
- Ministries
- WHO
- FAO
- OIE
- Donors

- Public Veterinary Services
- Rabies Prevention & Control
- Livestock sector
- Wildlife and Environmental Agencies
- Local authorities
- NGOs
- Industry
- Public and consumers
- NGOs
- Attitudes and Expectations
- Culture and Religion
- Donors
- Donors
- Values
- Policies, Laws and Regulations
Global Alliance for Rabies Control

- Uniting global human/animal/education health community
- Dedicated to global rabies control and prevention
- Initiated a global rabies network of public health professionals
- Developing new communications tools - WRD, Web-based, Webinar, etc
- Communicated messages into over 200 countries
- Established free educational on-line resource
- Creating global change – WRD and PRP
Rabies: Prevention and control requires intersectoral support

- Human
- Animal
- Education
- Communication & Advocacy
- Financial
- Legal
- Volunteerism
- NGOs
Launching Innovative Programmes to Break the Cycle of Neglect

- **Global Alliance for Rabies Control**, established 2006/07
  - Registered charity in Scotland, the US, CH and PH
- **World Rabies Day**, launched 2007
  - Focal point for increasing global awareness
- **Partners for Rabies Prevention (PRP)**, established 2008
  - Informal group of global stakeholders
  - Public, private, NGOs, funding organizations
- **E-global communications**
  - Free educational materials; connecting globally
- **Pilot projects for One Health rabies control**
  - Examples: Bohol, Philippines and Adopt a village, India
Partners for Rabies Prevention (PRP)

Informal group of stakeholders – established 2008
- Public and private: Bring time, talent, treasure to table
- GARC, FAO, OIE, WHO, PAHO, CDC, Animal welfare, Universities, Donors etc.
- Discuss common strategies and synergies


Activities:
- Road map for rabies prevention & control: 2008
  → One Health – human and animal rabies prevention
- Blueprint for Canine Rabies Control: 2009–2010
  → First One Health SOP
- Global health economics group 2011
  → Evaluating the global burden of rabies (country basis)
  → Funding from BMGF for evaluation of on-going rabies prevention projects
- Stepwise approach to rabies elimination for canine endemic countries 2012
  → Develop a stepwise approach to assist countries in rabies control with the ultimate goal of canine mediated human rabies elimination
- Global rabies policy group 2013
  • Investigating on models how to translate evidence into policy changes
Recent encouraging progress at the international level (1)

• OIE:
  – Rabies conference on sustainable control at the source (Incheon, Korea 2011)
  – Updated international standards on rabies emphasising the public health aspect of rabies control at the source
  – PVS pathway to strengthen veterinary services
  – Rabies laboratory twinning
  – Assistance to the ASEAN rabies strategy
  – OIE established a dog rabies vaccine bank in South East Asia
  – Integration of One Health approaches into the baseline curriculum requirements for veterinarians
Recent encouraging progress at the international level (2)

• WHO:
  – Reiterated assistance to countries for implementing IHR
  – Expert consultations on rabies/ STAG
  – Adoption of the resolution on NTDs including rabies
  – Capacity building to replace nerve tissue vaccines (for humans)
  – Pilot projects Tanzania, South Africa and the Philippines

• FAO:
  – Support to capacity building e.g. rabies laboratory sub-networks
  – National inter-ministerial workshops (assistance to the development of nation rabies strategies)
Regional roadmaps established or under development

Source WHO (Global distribution of risk to humans of contracting rabies)
News from the Tri-partite (FAO, OIE, WHO) + GARC

• All consider rabies control a high priority
• Elaboration of a policy briefing paper advocating for canine-mediated rabies elimination (publication WRD, targeting Ministers)
• Plans to enhance collaboration towards a comprehensive global strategy for rabies prevention, control and elimination
Needs & Challenges

• Improved global and national surveillance, including notification
• Develop impact models that assess strategic interventions
• Improve access to vaccines (e.g. for remote populations at risk)
• Evaluate novel strategies and methods to ensure sustainability to prevent reintroduction
• Translation of evidence into policy changes
• Better consideration of socio-cultural factors
Summarizing

→ Veterinarians have key responsibilities in rabies control and making a One Health Approach work
→ Encouraging examples of putting into practice a One Health Approach do exist
→ Interministerial zoonosis units or rabies action groups better translate into sustainable rabies control
→ No shoe fits it all, take into consideration affected communities and their socio-cultural framework
→ Don’t forget about the impact of education, both professional and general public
→ Lessons learnt from rabies potentially translate to other zoonotic diseases
Let’s make canine rabies history!

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http://www.rabiesalliance.org/