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OIE STANDARDS AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES FOR RABIES CONTROL

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Veterinarians are key public health stakeholders because of their crucial role in: Promoting food security by supervising animal production, monitoring food quality and safety, advancing biomedical research and controlling zoonosis at the animal source to create a buffer between the animal source of the disease and susceptible human beings - in line with OIE's overall mandate to improve animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare world-wide.

Already in 1928, the OIE Members around the globe adopted a resolution dedicated to rabies. These strong recommendations called for a better commitment of governments for rabies control, including collaboration with the public health sector and international harmonisation in rabies control and eradication at the animal source. This set of recommendations included guiding principles, such as international, cross-border collaboration in rabies elimination, the duty of veterinarians towards the public health impact of rabies, confinement of rabid and suspect animals, conditions for using rabies vaccines in animals and countries' annual reporting to the OIE on the epidemiological rabies situation. Many aspects of these guiding principles are still considered valid pillars of today's strategies in the fight against rabies on which OIE has been closely collaborating with its international partners.

The OIE provides science-based standards, guidelines and recommendations for the control of the disease in animals and to prevent the international spread of rabies, as well as standards for the diagnosis and the preparation of quality vaccines for use in animals. Through its capacity building programmes, global and regional conferences and its scientific network consisting of Specialists' Commissions, Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, the OIE supports veterinary services with policy advice, technical assistance for the diagnosis, control and eradication of rabies. An update on recent revisions and new concepts in OIE standards and activities will be provided.