

## VETERINARY SERVICES AND THE VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS IN RABIES CONTROL

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Veterinary medicine has made many significant successes in the field of animal health from the days when animal disease control was wrestled from the hands of priest, leech-doctors, furriers and quacks.

Veterinarians, in many sectors of human endeavor, are contributing in various ways to the eradication of rabies. In addition to their well-known role as animal doctors, veterinarians have proved their ability to design programmes for the prevention and control of infectious diseases, including those transmissible to humans. The veterinary profession's contribution to public health is now universally acknowledged as vital.

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) builds awareness and understanding in the veterinary profession which utilized for better professional competence in the surveillance of and preparedness for serious animal disease, both emerging and re-emerging through greater sensitization. The CVA projects are designed to develop capacity of veterinarians. They also serve as models for possible implementation throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Research by Veterinarians and current activities of veterinary services both, in the private and government sectors support the fact that veterinarians have a major role to play in the control of rabies.

This presentation looks at the efforts of Government's Veterinary Services, Private Veterinary Practitioners and Veterinary Associations in the control of rabies. The paper particularly would share the findings of a Commonwealth Veterinary association rural rabies project to demonstrate the effectiveness of combined and coordinated Medical and Veterinary intervention of rabies control in West, East, Central and Southern Africa.

