Figure 37: Distribution of Rabies Outbreaks across Species

SADC Animal Health Yearbook, 2010 (for 2009)
Estimated:
• 634 million people at risk from endemic canine rabies

Predicted:
• 24,000 human deaths pa.
• 350-650,000 animal deaths pa.

Knobel et al., Bulletin WHO, 83: 360-368, 2005
Country size adjusted for rabies deaths: 1995 - 2004
AFRICA

Reported epidemiological data

Dog densities and exposure data

95% of human rabies not reported

Human rabies > 10% of total reported rabies

1% of animal rabies reported

www.SEARG.info
Conundrum

There is a MAJOR DISCONNECT between

• Rabies cases predicted/estimated and
• Rabies cases reported
SADC 2008 Animal cases vs Human cases

Number of cases

Country

Total Animal cases (including dog)

Human Cases
SEARG Country Reports

Animal to human rabies cases per country 2010

Countries

Animal cases
Human cases
Comparison of statistics from various sources 2007

Number of cases in animals

Country

SEARG
WHO - RABNET
OIE - WAHID
Lab diagnosis, surveillance and rabies: The circle of neglect

- Poor diagnosis, surveillance
- Poor reporting, awareness
- Poor submission rate, low priority

More rabies
Rabies diagnostics and surveillance training initiatives

SEARG/Pretoria OIE ref. lab.

- July 2009, diagnostic training for 14 SADC countries (OIE)
- August 2010, harmonized FAT protocol for SADC (FAO)
- July 2011 Proficiency testing for 12 SADC countries (OIE)

Laboratories from the region operate at vastly different levels of competence
African showcases: KwaZulu Natal and Tanzania
Human rabies prevention - dog rabies control

KZN: Human rabies free since June 2010
10th International Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group Meeting
Observations

• Under reporting
• Inadequate Diagnostic facilities
• Inadequate personnel
• Inadequate funding
• Inadequate Awareness campaigns
• Lack of coordination between the Veterinary and Human Health authorities.
Way forward

• There is a need for enhanced government commitment in terms of support to the rabies control Programme.
WEAKNESSES

• Rabies control activities initiated but progress is still limited due to:
  1. Lack of human resources both in numbers and well trained vaccinators
  2. No strategic Vaccination Campaign Programs in place
  3. Surveillance system is not systematic
Recommendations

- Strengthen the capacity of national veterinary laboratory to enable diagnostic of rabies (training, equipments);
- Strengthen collaboration between ministries in charge of animal and human health
Constraints /Failures

- No specific reporting system on rabies
- Low participation to vaccination campaigns of dogs
- Very low collaboration between veterinary and medical services in case of bite
- No laboratory confirmatory test
“...brings me to the idea of FAO, OIE and WHO, we always talk of pathways (Rinderpest, FMD pathways)..... is it not time ... to start seriously thinking about a progressive rabies control pathway in Africa, where we ... can see progress being made in the control of this disease...

I believe WHO, OIE and FAO would be very much interested in participating in developing such ... progressive rabies control pathway ... and the countries can move ahead, rather than coming here every year and listening to the same story all over.”
Rabies Pathway

- Pan-African
- Proper surveillance
- Principled reporting
- Priority elevated

Synchronized agendas/support
OIE, WHO, FAO
1H partners
SEARG:
Southern & Eastern African Rabies Group