OIE Global Conference on Rabies Control: Towards Sustainable Prevention at the Source
7-9 Sept 2011 - Incheon-Seoul, Rep. of Korea

OIE standards and scientific activities for rabies control

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OIE’s history and rabies

- Calls for international collaboration to fight rabies appear already in the first resolutions adopted by the then ‘International Committee’ from the 1920’s onwards
- Rabies was in the very first list of compulsorily reportable diseases to OIE
- OIE standards for rabies control and prevention were amongst the first to be developed, mainly due to public health concerns
- OIE organised two major regional conferences on rabies in 2005 (Kiev) and 2007 (Paris)
- Institutional co-initiator of the World Rabies Day initiative
- Adoption of OIE’s 5th Strategic Plan 2011-2015, emphasis on One Health concepts
5th Strategic Plan (2011–2015)
(approved by the World Assembly in May 2010)

Mandate of the OIE:
“to improve animal health, veterinary public health and animal welfare world-wide”

Some key elements
- Animal health systems are a global public good
- Global strategy for managing risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interface (One Health concepts)
- Good Governance of Veterinary Services
- Veterinary Education
General OIE disease control policy:
Also applicable to rabies!

- Protect human health through control of diseases/zoonoses in animals
- Use standardised **definitions** and concepts – promote harmonisation and equivalence
- **Scientifically based criteria** for disease control programmes and (national) legislations
- Application of **minimum standards** for diagnostic techniques and vaccines that meet OIE and/or WHO criteria
- **OIE Member Country obligations**: Notification of animal and human diseases – global legal basis
- Surveillance – to know the **status quo**
- **Transparency in notification** including training of Delegates and OIE Focal Points
- Application of **ethical principles** to trade and animal disease control
- Prevent spread and introduction: Import risk analysis and **strengthening of Veterinary Services** to allow them to better implement the above
WAHIS improvements to facilitate reporting

- WAHID allows now to differentiate the occurrence codes for domestic and wild species (since 2009)
- Differentiation in disease control measures applied for domestic and wild species
- WAHIS-2 and WAHIS-wild will offer a list of known susceptible species in order to report the correct host animal:
  - by family name;
  - by scientific name (Latin name);
  - by common name
- Differentiation occurrence rabies virus versus other lyssavirus species (e.g. European bat lyssavirus)

Disease control cannot be done properly without accurate and reliable epidemiologic data!
Appropriate legislation, rabies should be notifiable!

Domestic animals – Situation in August 2011 –

Notifiable (at least in dogs)

- YES (161)
- NO (9)
- ? (5)
Rabies is a notifiable disease in wildlife

– Situation in August 2011 –

Notifiable - wild animals

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<td>YES</td>
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21 OIE Members are eligible for the rabies free category as defined in the Terrestrial Code.
Some challenges today
the international perspective

- Increasing commercial and non-commercial *movements of animals worldwide* – legally and illegally, e.g. risk of re-introduction to areas where rabies was controlled successfully
- Originally wild animal species are more and more bred and kept as **exotic pets**
- Stray dog populations are perceived to be too difficult to manage
- Laboratory based surveillance, combined with active health education and enhanced public awareness, and the strategic utilization of potent inexpensive vaccines in animals is highest priority in preventing human deaths and are **basic requirements for effective rabies prevention and control**
- **Inter-sectorial collaboration using ‘One Health’ concepts** is difficult to implement, many countries are discouraged in view of this complexity
- **Global collaboration**, expertise, leadership, technology transfer to all regions in need are key to improving **good veterinary governance**, and in consequence compliance with international standards
Facing the complexity of rabies control

Public Health Services

Public Veterinary Services

Private Vets

Livestock sector

WHO

OIE

FAO

Donors

Ministries

NGOs

Public and consumers

Local authorities

Industry

FAO

OIE

Public Veterinary Services

Private Vets

Livestock sector

WHO

Ministries

Policies, Laws and Regulations

Values

Wildlife and Environmental Agencies

Public and consumers

Local authorities

NGOs

Industry

Attitudes and Expectations

Culture and Religion

FAO

OIE
Revised OIE standards on rabies

Main considerations:

• In large parts of the world dogs are the main source of human rabies infection
• High number of non-commercial movements
• Endemic or sporadic rabies in wildlife or stray animals can easily spill over to domestic animals and humans
• Animal welfare considerations for stray dog population control programmes
• Immunization is the method of choice for controlling or eliminating the disease, use of quality vaccines
• International standards for diagnosis of rabies are approved by OIE and WHO, if applicable
• Quality of Veterinary Services
OIE Terrestrial Code standards related to rabies

Chapter 8.10. on rabies

Chapter 5.11. Model veterinary certificate for importation from rabies infected countries

Chapter 7.7. Stray dog population control

Chapter 1.1 Notification of diseases and epidemiological information

Chapter 1.4. Animal health surveillance

Chapter 3.1 Veterinary Services
OIE ad hoc Group on Rabies
April 2011
Revision Terrestrial Code chapter on rabies

- Change in virus taxonomy: Genotype-1 Lyssavirus → Rabies Virus
- Focus on ‘high risk animals’ for rabies transmission: Dogs, cats and wild captive carnivores
- Omission of bat lyssaviruses, but provisions for Chiroptera
- Intermediate step: Country free from dog rabies, versus rabies free country (in all animals)
- Emphasis on rabies surveillance (particularly on early detection), identification and stray dog population control programmes
- Re-grouping of animal species traded that pose a lower risk to humans and spread of rabies
- More flexible timeframes for re-vaccination (broader range of vaccines available now)
OIE standards on Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines

• The updated chapter (diagnostic methods) on rabies from the *Terrestrial Manual* was adopted in May 2011
• On the working programme of the Biological Standards Commission: *ad hoc* Group on Rabies Vaccine Quality
• Standardisation programmes for reagents (harmonisation of diagnostic testing)
• Work on scientifically acceptable criteria for validation of diagnostic tests in wild animal species (on-going)
Support to OIE Member Countries

Strengthening Good Governance of Veterinary Services:

• PVS Pathway
• Regular training of OIE Delegates
• Establishment and repeated training of topic-specific national Focal Points in each OIE Member Country
• Network of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres
• Laboratory twinning initiative ⇒ enhance technical capacity in the regions affected
Other Activities

- OIE is part of the forum *Partners for Rabies Prevention* (PRP)
- Contributions to the comprehensive online compilation of tools available for rabies control and prevention
- World Rabies Day
- Formalising the collaboration with the *Global Alliance for Rabies Control*
Don’t forget about rabies, it’s still there!

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