



VACCINE BANKS AND QUALITY OF VACCINES

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BIOGRAPHY

Dr Alain Dehove (DVM, MSc) joined the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in July 2006, as Coordinator of the World Animal Health and Welfare Fund, a multi-donor trust fund collecting voluntary contributions for projects of international public utility relating to the strengthening of veterinary services and the control of animal diseases, including zoonosis. Dr Dehove has contributed to the establishment of the OIE Regional Vaccine Banks.

SUMMARY

Vaccinating at least 70% of dogs in endemic areas breaks the cycle of transmission in dogs and to humans, thereby preventing rabies in humans most efficiently. Countries require easy access to high quality dog vaccines to successfully eliminate rabies in dogs.

The OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund collects voluntary contributions from public and private donors allowing for a multi-donor approach, with possible earmarking of funds by region, country and/or disease. An international call for tender procedure in line with OIE intergovernmental standards and calling on internal and external international experts precedes the setting up of an OIE Regional Vaccine Bank. The OIE then negotiates a formal service contract with selected supplier(s) for OIE deliveries but also foresees the possibility of direct purchase by Countries or International Organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO). In kind donations are also accepted when appropriate.

Since 2012, the OIE has provided over 13 million doses of rabies vaccines for dogs, in seventeen countries (mainly in South-East Asia). Initially funded by the European Union, financial support from Australia, France and Germany has allowed for additional deliveries, including to Africa. Moreover, five countries have purchased vaccines directly through the OIE Vaccine bank. Furthermore, WHO has officially recognised the OIE procurement process and has purchased 7,850,000 doses (in 2014 and 2015) for the Philippines and South Africa.

OIE Delegates submit official requests to the OIE Director General with support from OIE regional representations and the Utilisation Guidelines developed. Countries are requested to confirm that the appropriate cold chain is maintained at all times. Orders are then confirmed by the OIE Headquarters. Flight details and shipping documents are handled by the vaccine supplier(s) and provided to the country by OIE Headquarters. The major burden of storage lies with the supplier(s) rather than the countries or international organisations.

OIE Regional vaccine banks operate with virtual stocks, production on demand and replenishment mechanisms. This ensures optimisation of shelf life, facilitates use of emergency stocks in line with needs and enables delivery of small or large quantities.

Countries are invited to provide progress reports to the OIE, including information on vaccination campaign periods, quantities used, number of animals vaccinated, geographical areas covered and post-vaccination surveillance.

Regional vaccine banks enable economies of scale, synergies and leverage effects, whilst contributing to harmonisation and coordination of regional control programmes. In addition, they allow for multi-party vaccination campaigns, public-private partnerships and involvement of NGOs.