



LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPALITIES: MOTIVATING COMMUNITIES

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BIOGRAPHY

Dr Eduardo Pacheco de Caldas holds a degree in Veterinary Medicine and a bachelor degree (Bel) in Economics from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He holds a Master degree in Veterinary Epidemiology and has special interest in zoonosis. He is currently the Head Coordinator of the National Program for Control and Prevention of Rabies, Coordinator of the Technical Surveillance in Zoonosis and Substitute Coordinator of the Department of Transmissible Diseases for the Ministry of Health, Brazil.

SUMMARY

The control of human rabies transmitted by dogs in the Americas is carried out by the Health Sector.

Brazil has reduced cases of dog-transmitted human rabies by more than 90% over the past decades. The Ministry of Health (MoH) is in charge of policy formulation, and for the elaboration of technical guidelines and standards for the National Program of Rabies Control (NPRC). The MoH is also responsible for the acquisition and distribution, free of charge throughout the country, of major strategic inputs – biopharmaceuticals such as canine rabies vaccines (CRV) used in dog vaccination campaigns, human rabies vaccines (HRV), as well as heterologous rabies antiserum (HRA) and human rabies immunoglobulin (HRI) used in rabies prophylaxis.

The positive results were made possible through surveillance, prevention, control, and prophylactic measures directed at people at risk. The timely prevention of canine rabies transmission, education and massive animal rabies vaccination (dogs) campaigns were also planned in a sustainable way. These rabies vaccination campaigns are carried out by Municipal Health Departments with the support of state governments and the MoH.

In 2015, Brazil invested USD 33 million in the human rabies control programme: USD 14.4 million in dog rabies control and USD 16.5 million in acquisition of immunoglobulins and vaccines for human use. In the period from 2010 to 2015, data from the Health Surveillance Department of the MoH demonstrated an annual average of 578,398 patients receiving rabies prophylaxis, with an annual average of 1.3 million doses of human rabies vaccine applied.

In 1996, 1058 cases of canine rabies were reported, a figure that has dropped to 15 cases in 2014. Between 2008 and 2014 there were no cases of human deaths from dog-transmitted rabies. In the same period, however, there were ten deaths from rabies transmitted by wild animals or herbivores. In the year 2015, an epizootic in two municipalities in the border with Bolivia caused 67 cases of canine rabies and one human death from rabies was reported.

The decentralisation process in Brazil ensures the financing of surveillance actions and rabies control in the states and municipalities; this has made it possible to achieve a significant decrease in the incidence of human rabies and canine rabies. At present, such actions still exist in some vulnerable municipalities where there is viral circulation and persistence of canine rabies epizootics, leaving the project still unfinished.