

ASEAN rabies elimination strategy

ASEAN Expert Group on Communicable Diseases (AEGCD) and ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock (ASWGL).

Dog rabies is endemic in most of South-East Asia, where about 608 million people are at potential risk. Nearly all of the human rabies cases are due to bites from rabid dogs. Controlling the disease in dogs, primarily through mass dog vaccination, is a cost effective way to prevent rabies in humans.

The ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy (ARES) has been developed to provide a strategic framework to **control and eliminate rabies in ASEAN Member States by 2020 and to maintain region freedom.**

The ARES was designed following the international guidelines and standards on disease control, rabies diagnosis and vaccination, and animal welfare. Its design and implementation will also be guided by established facts and collated lessons learnt from various countries working on rabies control both in human and dog populations.

The strategy describes an integrated 'One Health' approach that brings together the necessary **socio-cultural, technical, organizational and political pillars** to address the above goal.

This document was jointly endorsed by the 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) and the 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) that were respectively held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar (2014) and Ha Noi, Viet Nam (2014).

Viet Nam as the lead country for rabies control, through its Ministers on Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and Health (MOH), have further expressed confidence that through ARES, cooperation and collaboration between and among Member States and other stakeholders will be strengthened.