

**Oral vaccination of dogs against rabies as a supplementary tool to parenteral vaccination:
A sustainable solution towards eradication of dog-mediated rabies**

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Mass dog vaccination has proven to be the most efficient way to prevent and control dog-mediated rabies. Unfortunately, and especially in certain areas in developing countries, a high number of free-roaming dogs – that play a very important role in the maintenance and transmission of rabies – are inaccessible to conventional parenteral vaccination.

By offering free-roaming dogs a vaccine-loaded bait that is well accepted, oral dog vaccination (ODV) can be used as an effective supplementary tool to the traditional parenteral vaccination. The increase in the overall vaccination coverage to sufficiently high levels by using a combination of parenteral and oral vaccination, will interrupt the transmission cycle among dogs, and will thus shift the paradigm from annual vaccination campaigns to a sustainable solution: the eradication of dog-mediated rabies. The use of oral vaccination of dogs in combination with parenteral vaccination will likely depend on the local situation. In certain areas almost all dogs can be vaccinated by the parenteral route and oral vaccination is not needed. However, in other areas most dogs can only be reached by offering these animals an oral vaccine bait.