

Guidelines for Mass Dog Vaccination



Authors: Dr Emelie Fogelberg, Dr Jennifer Ford, World Animal Protection, 222 Gray's Inn Road, WC1X 8HB

Introduction

We advocate humane rabies control through mass dog vaccination and the humane management of dog populations. In Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East we promote welfare-friendly and sustainable solutions to human-dog conflict caused by rabies and other issues.

Our Asia Pacific work highlighted the need for comprehensive, user-friendly guides to support countries and our partners in planning and implementing Mass Dog Vaccination (MDV) programmes. The Guidelines for Mass Dog Vaccination have been produced in response to this need. They are aimed at national government officials, local government and community leaders, dog capture and handling and vaccination teams, survey teams, and rapid response teams.

The Guidelines, which are a set of nine separate guides, have been produced with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Indonesia. They are based on Indonesian government resources and others from organisations including the Global Alliance for Rabies Control and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The Guidelines include associated data collection and reporting templates (courtesy of FAO Indonesia and the Indonesian government). Guides on rapid response to rabid or suspect rabid dogs and euthanasia are incorporated too.

There are clear instructions on each step/ component involved in devising and implementing a programme including materials required, recommended personnel, risks and references. The nine guides can be used as a complete set or individually depending on the current status of the programmes.

Benefits and uses of the Guidelines

The Guidelines are being used globally. They have benefited the planning of national and local MDV programmes and the training of personnel in dog capture, handling and vaccination and post-vaccination surveys.

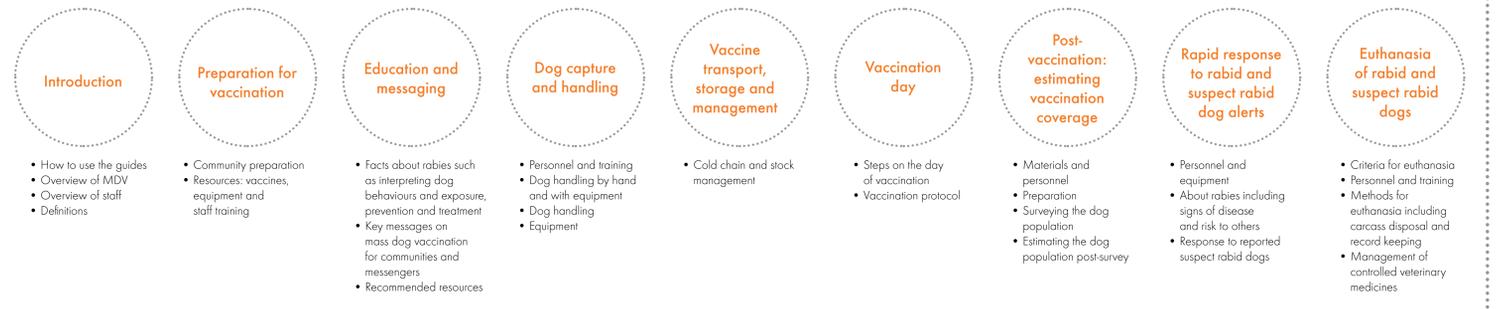
In China the Guidelines have been translated and used to develop their Rabies Control Guidebook. This was part of our collaboration with the China Animal Disease Control Centre (CADC). The Guidebook is used by pilot site vaccinators to guide their daily work for rabies control. We also delivered a workshop for CADC officials during a study visit to Indonesia in 2015.

In Indonesia, the Guidelines have been used by the Indonesian government as a key reference for the development of their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). These SOPs will be attached to the Indonesian national masterplan on rabies elimination.

Outside Asia Pacific, the Guidelines have been used in Kenya as a reference, with other resources, to develop their MDV SOPs.

Global and national organisations such as the OIE, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and the FAO, use the guides as a reference and training tool.

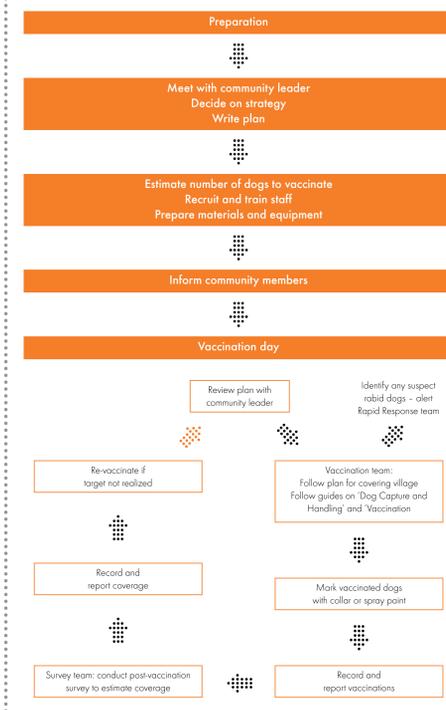
Guidelines for Mass Dog Vaccination



Some key points about Mass Dog Vaccination

- Culling should NEVER be part of a rabies control programme as it can undermine vaccination efforts.
- Staff should be trained in humane dog capture and handling, administering vaccinations and risk management relating to rabies.
- At least 70% of the dog population must be vaccinated annually to achieve and maintain herd immunity.
- Roaming/outdoor dogs and puppies (over two weeks old) are a priority for vaccination.
- Vaccination of an area needs to be completed as quickly as possible, and must cover the whole area.
- Vaccines meeting the criteria by the OIE should be used (OIE, 2014).
- Rabid and highly suspect rabid dogs should be euthanased according to the guidelines. Low to medium suspect rabid dogs should be quarantined and observed where possible.
- The only reliable diagnosis of rabies is through laboratory testing (OIE, 2014).
- All vaccinations, surveys of vaccination coverage and cases of rabid and suspect rabid dogs need to be recorded and reported.

Overview of steps for planning and implementing a MDV program



Conclusion and next steps

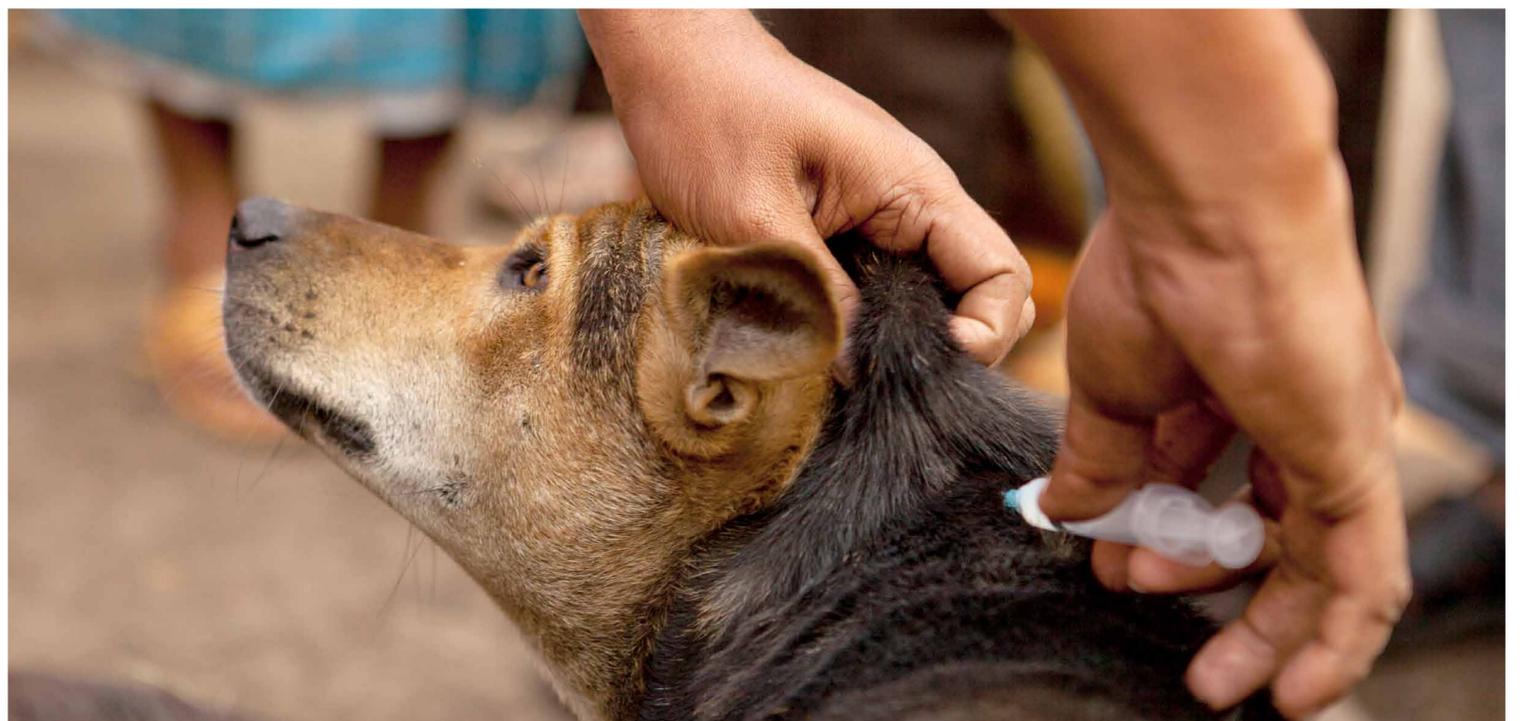
The Guidelines for Mass Dog Vaccination are a proven valuable resource within Asia-Pacific and globally. Support of this kind for countries is vital as countries strive towards rabies free status through humane, sustainable rabies control.

The Guidelines have been distributed widely and are also available online for free download. They have been used through Asia-Pacific and in other regions globally, by governments, Inter-Governmental Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations.

A video on dog capture and handling is currently being developed with FAO Indonesia and will accompany the guidelines. A review of the Guidelines to keep them relevant and in tune with feedback from users is also planned.

They can be supplemented with our 'Guidelines for Classroom Education and Public Awareness on Responsible Pet Ownership and Rabies Prevention' and our humane dog management resource Better Lives for Dogs. These are also available online for download from the website below.

Safe hands: A community dog is vaccinated against rabies, Bangladesh



For further information and resources

worldanimalprotection.org/dog-population-management-training-guides

World Animal Protection is the operating name of World Society for the Protection of Animals, Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales, registration No. 4029540. Registered Charity 1081849.

PHOTOBY/1115