



RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Rabies is a widespread, neglected and under-reported zoonosis with an almost 100% case fatality rate in human and animal untreated on time, and causing a significant social and economic burden in many countries worldwide;
2. On a global level, the main reservoir of rabies is the dog, responsible for almost 99% of fatal rabies cases in humans;
3. Only 32 out of the 178 OIE Member Countries would be eligible to qualify for historical freedom in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* or have successfully eliminated rabies in domestic animals, while at least 110 Member Countries are considered endemically infected with rabies; only in 161 Member Countries is rabies a notifiable disease in dogs;
4. Good veterinary governance is a prerequisite for compliance with international standards, guidelines and recommendations for rabies prevention and control in animals;
5. In spite of the availability of scientific methods to control rabies in dogs the effective implementation of such rabies control programmes and technologies are dependent on political will, community commitment and sufficient financial resources at the global, regional, national and local levels;
6. The control and elimination of rabies in dogs, through vaccination remains the only cost-effective way to sustainably protect humans from contracting the disease;
7. Massive culling of dog populations or wildlife, as isolated, interim or emergency control measures, is neither sustainable nor scientifically supported for efficiently controlling or eliminating dog-mediated rabies;
8. On-going assessment of the global burden of rabies will help to better advocate for rabies control worldwide;
9. The OIE, WHO and FAO have published a concept note on the sharing of responsibilities and coordinating their global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interfaces;
10. Rabies in wildlife reservoirs remains important in many parts of the world and endangers biodiversity particularly where wildlife become victims of dog-mediated rabies;
11. The OIE has adopted and continually updates international standards related to rabies prevention and control;
12. The regular training of OIE National Focal Points for Animal Disease Notification and for Wildlife have increased their knowledge of and reporting on the rabies situation in their respective countries;

13. The OIE twinning initiative is improving the capability and access of Member Countries to rabies diagnosis and scientific expertise in some regions of the world;
14. OIE Reference Laboratories and WHO Collaborating Centres on rabies have considerably contributed to the development of safer, more effective rabies vaccines and other rabies biologicals, diagnostics test and preventive and control methods;
15. The OIE is promoting and implementing the concept of regional vaccine banks for dog vaccination;
16. An increasing number of non-governmental organisations are supporting rabies control at the animal source and rabies awareness campaigns;
17. The goal of this conference was to support global rabies elimination while providing a global platform to encourage exchanges of experiences on rabies prevention and control at the animal source and to seek for renewed concepts of inter-sectoral collaboration between stake-holders.

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Governments, donors, foundations and NGOs be mobilised at global level with the guidance of the OIE, WHO and FAO to continue to invest in dog rabies prevention and control and to increase and sustain the momentum of the global control and subsequent elimination of rabies with emphasis on dog rabies;
2. All governments consider rabies control as a high priority and ensure that national legislation provides for rabies to be a notifiable disease;
3. The OIE, WHO and FAO should consider rabies a priority and should encourage international solidarity and donor support for countries in need of funding to initiate and sustain control programmes for rabies;
4. OIE Member Countries are encouraged to support awareness campaigns on rabies (e.g. participate in the World Rabies Day initiative);
5. The re-assessment of the global burden of rabies (in animals and humans) and the assessment of cost-effectiveness be completed to provide updated data to better advocate for rabies control at the global level;
6. The governance of Veterinary Services be strengthened through the active participation of countries in the PVS pathway of the OIE to enhance their capacity and ability and make appropriate financial and human investments to control rabies;
7. Veterinary services of endemic countries in collaboration with the public health services (Ministry of Public Health), municipalities and local communities mobilise appropriate financial support from the public budget and other sources to benefit from the cost-effective advantage of eliminating rabies at the animal source;
8. The budget for rabies control programmes should include the cost and accessibility of human vaccines to protect veterinarians, para-veterinarians, laboratory staff and other personnel directly involved in rabies control programmes to mitigate any professional hazard leading to rabies infection;
9. Options for combining rabies control programmes with other interventions or zoonosis prevention and control programmes should be actively considered;
10. Surveillance and reporting of rabies, in humans, domestic animals and wildlife, be continually improved nationally and globally, and the data so generated should be shared across sectors through e.g. WAHIS/WAHID and GLEWS;

11. Definitive diagnosis of rabies in animals should only be confirmed by laboratory tests as described in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual*;
12. OIE Reference Laboratories and WHO Collaborating Centres continue their work on international harmonisation of laboratory methods for the diagnosis and the quality control of vaccines as well as development/evaluation of new techniques and methodologies for rabies control;
13. Laboratory twinning / training programmes should be encouraged to further improve diagnostic capability in laboratories in developing countries;
14. Strategic implementation and continuous evaluation of control programmes throughout the world should be undertaken to enhance and improve the decision-making ability for the most appropriate vaccination strategies;
15. Control strategies be continuously reviewed and adapted taking into account, e.g. dog population density, population turn-over and accessibility;
16. More research on practical and feasible chemical or immuno-contraception with the possibility for use in combination with parenteral or oral rabies vaccines should be supported, with due consideration to safety, public and animal health and ecological aspects of oral vaccines;
17. OIE standards on rabies prevention and control should be continuously updated to reflect new scientific advances;
18. The OIE extend the establishment of regional vaccine banks to provide access to high quality vaccines to countries in urgent need;
19. Dog population management be applied in compliance with OIE standards;
20. Public awareness and education on rabies be a national priority and be enhanced by exchange of information, experience and cooperation between medical, veterinary, educational, environmental and customs authorities, relevant communication channels and the private sector;
21. Governmental and non-governmental organisations active in rabies control should communicate and coordinate their technical and financial efforts with national authorities and international organisations, to maximise sustainability of their collaboration and joint projects;
22. The OIE, WHO and FAO continue to encourage governments to update their legislation to comply with relevant standards for efficient rabies prevention and a 'One Health' approach to disease control;
23. Dog population management, rabies control and animal welfare be included in the basic core curriculum of the initial training of veterinarians and para-veterinarians;
24. Veterinary Statutory Bodies should ensure that their rules provide for the ethical conduct required from veterinarians and para-veterinary professionals in situations where rabies poses risks to animals and humans;
25. Rabies control be considered as a global public good eligible to international solidarity and donors support where needed, as well as a priority model to apply the 'One Health' concept by countries and intergovernmental organisations.