World Rabies Day: One Health in action to…… “Make Rabies History”

Cathleen Hanlon1, Peter J. Costa2, Robert E. Dedmond3, End Siles4, George Beran5, Michael Altemeier6, Abigail Tumpey7, and Deborah J. Briggs2

1Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, KS, USA, 2Alliance for Rabies Control, Edinburgh, ENZ ILS, United Kingdom, 3Clinical Professor Population Health-Public Health, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 4S4B6, 5Veterinarians Without Borders-Veterinaires sans Frontières, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, ON N1T 2W1 Canada, 6Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ames, IA, 7University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19127 Division of Viral and Rickettsial Zoonoses, CDC, 1600 Clifton Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333

Background
From a global perspective, rabies remains a severely neglected disease. With the development of effective biology more than 30 years ago, there is no reason why people exposed to rabies today should be at risk for developing and dying of rabies. And yet, it is estimated that more than 55,000 humans die of rabies every year mainly from impoverished communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America and mostly from uncontrolled rabies in dogs which can be eliminated.

Rabies awareness is important for everyone because humans travel, animals are moved, and bats fly — the risk is global. Prevention involves the public, veterinarians, animal control personnel, diagnosticians, epidemiologists, public health and healthcare specialists, physicists, ecologists, biologists, researchers — One Health in action.

Methods

Objectives
1. Raise awareness about rabies prevention locally and globally;
2. Educate at risk populations about human rabies prevention and facilitate the development of diagnostic and public health infrastructure for disease prevention;
3. Find resources to “Fire the pump” locally for success in the achievable goal of elimination of dog-to-dog transmission of rabies and fully successful human rabies prevention.

2007 Outcome Metrics
• At least 74 countries
• Over 25,000 events
• Over 100,000 people engaged
• 600,000 animals vaccinated
• Over 50 veterinary schools

In some countries, rabies experts convened to discuss goals and plans for rabies prevention and control, with several countries initiating a National Rabies Control Program

Several countries, including Mexico and Brazil, had events in every state.

Veterinary colleges around the world joined forces towards this effort, with activities at 24 in the US, 15 in India, 5 in Indonesia, and several in Mexico and the Philippines.

Acting Locally for Global Impact
The 24 North American Veterinary Colleges raised funds for community level rabies prevention:
• Nearly 5,000 participants
• Donations over US $ 16,000

Future Directions
• Continue to promote partnerships, especially with the medical community, and toward global innovation
• Develop support for “Fire the pump” at education level through awareness and funding
• Matched by Veterinary Without Borders/Veterinaires sans Frontieres for an East Africa region education tool.

2008 Outcome Metrics
• 45 competing proposals from 16 countries in 4 languages asking for US $500,000

Country
Peru Participative Outreach for Preventing Varying Bat Bites Aparanwuy Huarmi school, children of Last Dug Area, 2007-2010
Guatemala Education about Rabies Prevention in Guatemala Dr Ricardo Fiquetum, 2007
Viet Nam Rabies Education for School Children in Vietnam Ors km Kupang, Ph.D Alasan Post
Kenya Community Based Public Awareness Program in Kinonde, Dr Peter Nakam, 2007-2010
China The Impact of Rabies Picture Posters Distribution on Rabies Control in Rural Areas in China, Liu Tie, MSc, Ph.D.

Future Directions
• Continue to promote partnerships, especially with the medical community, and toward global innovation
• Develop support for “Fire the pump” at education level through awareness and funding
• Matched by Veterinary Without Borders/Veterinaires sans Frontieres for an East Africa region education tool.

Conclusions
Through broad collaboration, the World Rabies Day Initiative is expected to catalyze change and reduce inequities that allow human rabies cases and uncontrolled canine rabies.

References
• World Rabies Day initiative, 2007
• World Rabies Day initiative, 2008

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of their Institutions.

World Rabies Day: One Health in action to…… “Make Rabies History”

Cathleen Hanlon1, Peter J. Costa2, Robert E. Dedmond3, End Siles4, George Beran5, Michael Altemeier6, Abigail Tumpey7, and Deborah J. Briggs2

1Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, KS, USA, 2Alliance for Rabies Control, Edinburgh, ENZ ILS, United Kingdom, 3Clinical Professor Population Health-Public Health, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 4S4B6, 5Veterinarians Without Borders-Veterinaires sans Frontières, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, ON N1T 2W1 Canada, 6Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ames, IA, 7University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19127 Division of Viral and Rickettsial Zoonoses, CDC, 1600 Clifton Rd, NE, Atlanta, GA 30333

Background
From a global perspective, rabies remains a severely neglected disease. With the development of effective biology more than 30 years ago, there is no reason why people exposed to rabies today should be at risk for developing and dying of rabies. And yet, it is estimated that more than 55,000 humans die of rabies every year mainly from impoverished communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America and mostly from uncontrolled rabies in dogs which can be eliminated.

Rabies awareness is important for everyone because humans travel, animals are moved, and bats fly — the risk is global. Prevention involves the public, veterinarians, animal control personnel, diagnosticians, epidemiologists, public health and healthcare specialists, physicists, ecologists, biologists, researchers — One Health in action.

Methods

Objectives
1. Raise awareness about rabies prevention locally and globally;
2. Educate at risk populations about human rabies prevention and facilitate the development of diagnostic and public health infrastructure for disease prevention;
3. Find resources to “Fire the pump” locally for success in the achievable goal of elimination of dog-to-dog transmission of rabies and fully successful human rabies prevention.

2007 Outcome Metrics
• At least 74 countries
• Over 25,000 events
• Over 100,000 people engaged
• 600,000 animals vaccinated
• Over 50 veterinary schools

In some countries, rabies experts convened to discuss goals and plans for rabies prevention and control, with several countries initiating a National Rabies Control Program

Several countries, including Mexico and Brazil, had events in every state.

Veterinary colleges around the world joined forces towards this effort, with activities at 24 in the US, 15 in India, 5 in Indonesia, and several in Mexico and the Philippines.

Acting Locally for Global Impact
The 24 North American Veterinary Colleges raised funds for community level rabies prevention:
• Nearly 5,000 participants
• Donations over US $ 16,000

Future Directions
• Continue to promote partnerships, especially with the medical community, and toward global innovation
• Develop support for “Fire the pump” at education level through awareness and funding
• Matched by Veterinary Without Borders/Veterinaires sans Frontieres for an East Africa region education tool.

Conclusions
Through broad collaboration, the World Rabies Day Initiative is expected to catalyze change and reduce inequities that allow human rabies cases and uncontrolled canine rabies.

References
• World Rabies Day initiative, 2007
• World Rabies Day initiative, 2008

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of their Institutions.