

ICAM Humane Dog & Cat Population Management 5th International Conference - Virtual 2024 - Day 2: One Health, June 18th 2024

	Question	Answer	Answerer Name
Matt Backhouse, FOUR PAWS: Barriers to reaching the 'Zero by 30' rabies target in Southeast Asia			
1	Is there a global scarcity in supply of anti rabies both for animals and for humans??	Hi, yes this has been an issue since the covid pandemic. However, with the GAVI initiative we hope to see more access to human PEP available in the coming years: https://www.who.int/news/item/13-06-2024-gavi-to-boost-access-to-life-saving-rabies-vaccines-human-in-over-50-countries-gavi-who-and-uar	Matt Backhouse
		WOAH also has a dog vaccine bank - for countries that can show they have a national plan for rabies elimination.	Elly Hiby
2	What company or organization is willing to provide the vaccines for free?	https://www.who.int/news/item/13-06-2024-gavi-to-boost-access-to-life-saving-rabies-vaccines-human-in-over-50-countries-gavi-who-and-uar There has also been a lot of investment from GIZ https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/125248.html and Boer	Matt Backhouse
3	How we work towards extending this program in Pakistan	Hi, I would suggest starting with the UAR program for some initial starting points and expert advice: https://www.unitedagainstrabies.org/	Matt Backhouse
4	Any thoughts on the role of cats in this issue?	Cats can get rabies, so they should be vaccinated to protect their health - and the health of their families if owned. But they are not a reservoir species - rabies virus does not live in cat populations. Vaccination of the dog population addresses the source of rabies virus because this virus has evolved to live within the dog population - transmitted from dog to dog. So vaccinating dogs also protects cats - cats are most likely to have been infected by a dog.	Elly Hiby
5	Sorry if I missed it, but have the governments being supporting the program rabies free by 30?	Hi, it varies from country to country, and the scale of support also varies. The whitepaper on rabies in SEA gives a great overview: https://www.boehringer-ingenheim.com/about-us/sustainable-development/more-health/moving-towards-rabies-free-southeast-asia#:~:text=%E2%80%9CMoving%20towards%20a%20rabies%2Dfree,zero%20human%20deaths%20from%20dog%2D	Matt Backhouse
6	A woman was bitten by a rabid dog and the dog remained alive for more than 40 days, till when the victim died and we euthanized the dog and was tested positive for Rabies. So is this normal for Rabies animal to leave longer than 10 days? Thank you.	Hi, while this is unusual, there have been recorded cases	Matt Backhouse
7	What's the prevalence of rabies in SA?	Hi, while I don't work in SA I do know that rabies is still endemic there: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10819520/	Matt Backhouse
8	Why COVID -19 pandemic affect Rabies vaccine supply?	Hi, the main issue was global vaccine production shifted away from rabies to Covid vaccines. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35512248/	Matt Backhouse
9	Is there a quick test available to test for rabies for both humans and animals?	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32513172/	Matt Backhouse
10	Matt and/or Andre, since controlling rabies in dogs and cats is more effective when controlling overpopulation, is there a collaboration with other NGOs or institutions such as Dogs trust that focus on animal behaviour and welfare?	Hi, FP focuses on DCPM together with rabies control and eliminating the dog and cat meat trade. Other groups also focus on this, and this paper is a great read on the subject: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28740850/	Matt Backhouse

Andre Coetzer, GARC: Communities Against Rabies: Unifying civil society in South Africa towards improved animal welfare and sustainable rabies control			
1	What's the prevalence of rabies in SA?	Anecdotal evidence suggests that caninerabies was first established in South Africa during the early 1900s, and today six of the nine South African provinces (viz. Limpopo, North West, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Free State provinces) remain endemic for canine-mediated rabies. In contrast, the remaining provinces (Northern Cape, Western Cape and Gauteng provinces) only experience sporadic canine-mediated rabies outbreaks and could be considered vulnerable to outbreaks but not endemic. https://www.mdpi.com/2414-6366/9/6/122	Andre Coetzer
2	Please has your organization participated or partnered with your African colleagues to control Rabies. Do you intend to do because we have a lot unvaccinated dogs in Ghana. We tried(wacpaw) tried to step in with individual support to vaccinate 200 dogs and cats which was woefully inadequate. Thank you	The Global Strategic Plan relies on a country-centric approach which means governments need to lead the efforts in terms of rabies control. As mentioned during my presentation, animal welfare groups play an important role by supplementing the governmental efforts. As such, GARC works towards the promotion of collaborative efforts.	Andre Coetzer
3	This is awesome to know, as I work in very rural South Africa and we are trying hard to educate on Rabies	Hi, please be sure to engage with GARC after the ICAM conference so that we can engage in a meaningful way. Once ready, please send an email to support@rabiesalliance.org	Andre Coetzer
4	Are private individual vets eligible to use the Garc app?	Yes, the GARC App is available to any person, organization or vet practice interested in it's use. If you want to learn more and see a demonstration of the system you can send us an email at: support@rabiesalliance.org	Andre Coetzer
5	Does RCE only include NGOs? What about the private sector? A veterinary hospital...	Any stakeholders involved with rabies control and animal welfare at the community level are eligible. You can learn more about the Communities Against Rabies (CAR) initiative by visiting this link: https://endrabiesnow.org/communities-against-rabies	Andre Coetzer
6	@andre, there is online courses? I think I have completed the 1st one the Rabies Educator certificate	Hi, yes. The courses are online on the GARC Education Platform. You can learn more about the GARC Education Platform and its free, self-paced courses by visiting this link: https://rabiesalliance.org/tools/education-tools/gep	Andre Coetzer
7	I would love to collaborate with our local vet in organising a rabies vaccination programme. In my individual capacity, how can i get help with vaccines and materials? I would really like to help some of the poorest communities in our city.	Hi, this is sometimes very difficult to answer as it changes on a case by case basis. As we are not involved in the provision of vaccine, you will have to link up with a group that is already active in the community and reach out to them. They are always looking for assistance and volunteers.	Andre Coetzer
8	Thats a fantastic initiative! if anyone would have other such programs for cat welfare to train volunteers and staff for NGO's I would be extremely interested.	Hi - have you checked International Cat Care's website? They have many resources and courses in cat welfare and behaviour	Elly Hiby
9	Little Paws would like to be part of the courses, as we work mainly in the townships around Secunda	Hi, I am glad that you are excited about this initiative. You can learn more about the Communities Against Rabies (CAR) initiative by visiting this link: https://endrabiesnow.org/communities-against-rabies . Once ready, please engage with GARC and we can discuss next steps.	Andre Coetzer

10	Good morning. The issue of Dog Rabies is critical in my Country Liberia. There has been limited awareness as its related to dog rabies. Most of the time the Rabies Vaccine is limited or not even available. If available it is very expensive to get. Because of this more people died from the disease. Thanks.	Hi, limited vaccine is often a problem across the African continent. In such circumstance, the best one can do is to educate communities about the importance of dog bite prevention and improved animal-human bonds. You can empower yourself to do this with the courses on the GARC Education Platform. You can learn more about the GARC Education Platform and its free, self-paced courses by visiting this link: https://rabiesalliance.org/tools/education-tools/gep	Andre Coetzer
11	Wow, what a great effort! Thank you very much Andre, I will look into your website for more details! We are currently running castration and vaccination campaigns in the south of Egypt, and will soon be opening the first permanent vet clinic here. So we are rather "newbies" here, and can learn so much from you!	Hi, this is great news. Please feel free to go through the free tools and resources offered by GARC by visiting our website. https://rabiesalliance.org	Andre Coetzer
12	You mentioned Sri Lanka. Do you have a project in SL at the moment?	Hi, the Communities Against Rabies initiative is active in Sri Lanka as well, yes. You can learn more about the Communities Against Rabies (CAR) initiative by visiting this link: https://endrabiesnow.org/communities-against-rabies	Andre Coetzer
Jessica Hoopes & Bonnie Cumming, Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities: Why It's the Participants That Matter Most: AMRRIC's Approach to Requests for Research Collaboration			
1	From what I understand, Australia and Canada, have some similarities in their history and relationship with Indigenous communities. Seeing your presentation, I think it would be a great idea to model some of AMRRIC's research in Canada. Thoughts?	Hi. Yes absolutely - so many similarities in Australia and Canada's histories of colonisation. We would be very open to sharing our approach to research partnerships with any organisation working with Indigenous populations. We have a fair bit of information about this on our website: https://www.amrric.org/one-health-research/ but we are also always open to email and teams discussion :)	Bonny Cumming
2	Our work is located in a region that is also very sensitive to religious and cultural issues upto to the point that it can easily escalate to a security problem for our animals and staff. Do you have any experiences or suggestions that you can share while working with different communities ?	Hi. Sounds like you're working in a challenging environment. While we have occasionally encountered issues that escalate, we've been fortunate that these issues have been peripheral to the work that we deliver and are rarely directed toward our teams. In our delivery, we always prioritise relationship building and I think this helps to mitigate any potential risks. Another way that we mitigate the potential escalation of issues is by ensuring everything we do is done with informed consent of the owner (in the communities we work, while animals are often free-roaming, they are nearly always owned), as well as more broadly, ensuring that the services that we are offering address the concerns that have been identified by the community in the first place.	Bonny Cumming
3	Where do you get the funding to do all that work?	Hi. AMRRIC receives funding from the Australian Government, as well as philanthropic donors. We additionally then deliver projects that are grant funded and these grants are from various government and non-government sources. Our veterinary services typically have a co-contribution from local governments also. Our research collaborations are currently funded by a philanthropic grant.	Bonny Cumming
4	Have you hire people from the community to get this translations and work done? as a way from people from the community to also get some income?	Absolutely! Most of the language centres we work with provide their services on a fee-for-service basis. We also do a lot of advocating to prospective research partners about the need for community members to be appropriately remunerated for their participation in research projects. Our commitment to ensuring communities receive immediate and tangible benefits definitely extends to appropriately remunerating community members :)	Bonny Cumming

5	I would like to see researchers include the sources of data included as authors of published papers more frequently. For example, if researchers use data from animal shelter software or other programmatic sources, someone from that organization should receive authorship credit. Too often, researchers take the data to analyze but only include the source that made the paper possible in an acknowledgement, not authorship.	Absolutely! We've seen this historically too. AMRRIC now has a research partnership process which requires prospective research partners to outline how then intend to acknowledge and credit (including by offering authorship) ALL participating collaborators - whether they are academics or not. In our experience, most researchers are well intentioned but just haven't ever thought that the inclusion of non-academics but it's definitely something we would encourage all involved in this space to advocate for :)	Bonny Cumming

Jessica Hoopes, Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities: To treat or not to treat? Review of antibiotic use in Australian companion animal health programs reveals critical knowledge gaps in antibiotic prophylaxis for field-based desexing programs

1	Excellent presentation and so important. Does Amrric also look in to preventative medicine resistance such as worm, tick, flea medication. Is this a recognised problem?	Greetings - great question, and one we have had a number of internal discussion about. We actually did a presentation last year at ICAM discussing the downstream considerations around parasite treatments, which included concerns around resistance development - please see here https://youtu.be/6U5Guf88Gro?si=BkMOLvrENb6s_yvE . Again, existing guidelines on parasite treatment in companion animals often don't include considerations for population level or large scale parasite treatments, which makes clinical decisions in this regard challenging. Generally, antiparasitic resistance is slower to develop than antibiotic resistance, and doesn't appear to receive as much attention. Most cases of resistance that have been reported in the literature (for example hookworm) have been associated with intensive treatments in closed systems like shelters and greyhound racing facilities, which is quite different from outreach settings. So while I think the risk is lower than for antibiotic use, I do think it is something we need to be aware of.	Jessica Hoopes
2	Great presentation! I work in a cat control programme, and we give antibiotics to every cat that is neutered or spayed. Is it a bad practice? Since the males have such a non invasive procedure, could we dispense the antibiotics in those cases to prevent amr?	Most guidelines state that antibiotics are not required for short (<60 minutes), uncontaminated surgical procedures - which would include spays and neuters (in most cases). Having said that, existing guidelines really don't take into consideration comparative infection risks associated with field-based programs, free-roaming cat and dog populations that won't be confined post-operatively, etc. To the best of my knowledge there are no studies that look at the comparative risks of field-based programs either. Until we have a better understanding of these infection risks, I think antibiotic decisions need to be made on a case by case basis, again, evaluating the comparative risks and benefits of antibiotics in this context.	Jessica Hoopes
3	In my country the most widely used antibiotic is called doxycycline and it is prescribed even for small cuts...is this the safest and can we reject (most cases include strays)	Where possible, antibiotic selection should be made on a case by case basis, based on local guidelines where possible, but doxycycline definitely isn't a "first line" treatment for all medical problems. If you don't have local guidelines available, some of the international ones may be good to help guide general decision making, but unfortunately the type of antibiotics they recommend wouldn't be based bacterial profiles from your local area	Jessica Hoopes

Liliana Pacheco Ricote & Gregg Tully, Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT Centre) Nepal: A Novel Collaboration Between the Kathmandu Municipality and Grassroots NGOs and Veterinary Clinics for Dog Population Management

1	Was there any cases that the organisation/ clinic didnt do the surgries properly and reported the cases as steralised ? was there any supervision by the governmental bodies since they were paying?	There were a couple partner clinics in the early days that didn't conduct high-quality sterilizations or didn't keep good records. Now the municipality is a lot more discerning about which organizations they include in the partnership, and this isn't considered a problem anymore. The government does collect data about fatalities, surgical complications, etc., and if an organization is having too many problems, they're removed from the program.	Gregg Tully
2	Government funding is always changing.how long does this program plan to run?	The Kathmandu municipality seems very committed to program for the long term. They've had a budget for sterilizations every year for several years, and they're committed to this program, although we don't know exactly what the budget will be every year. I'd say this is more reliable than depending on small local NGOs that sometimes struggle to have enough funding or skilled staff to run a large-scale sterilization program or depending on international organizations that may not be committed to Nepal in the long term.	Gregg Tully
3	Question to anyone - is there a safety program/resources for children living in free roaming dog communities?	Kathmandu has great education in schools. Kids know exactly what to do if someone is bitten by a dog. I'm sure some international animal charities have educational resources on their websites.	Gregg Tully
		The GARC Education Platform (GEP) is a set of free online courses developed to improve the skills and knowledge of people working in rabies awareness and prevention. Through the GEP, we aim to empower people to become rabies advocates, focal persons, and experts across the globe. After completing each course, you become a certified graduate and receive a unique certificate of completion! https://rabiesalliance.org/tools/education-tools/gep	Andre Coetzer
4	In human, after full immunization against rabies, re vaccination is after every 5 years. Can the same be applied to canines and feline?	From my experience, rabies vaccines for dogs and cats are generally considered to last for one or three years, and the same vaccine may be valid for different lengths of time in different countries. Revaccinating can be valuable when the resources are available for it, although in many cities, not many street dogs and cats live long enough that it's considered a top priority.	Gregg Tully
5	Vaccination against distemper/parvo at the time of sterilization would protect at least those dogs for minimal cost. Adding DHPP to the community rabies would provide proabder control of these fatal diseases.	That's a fantastic idea. I should find out how much that would increase the costs.	Gregg Tully
Other/general questions			
1	Regarding ICAM conversations - will there be any sign up for this?	Yes! Email for signing up will be sent to those who register for this conference. You will have the opportunity to look at the issue + region list and choose the one that is suitable for you. Unfortunately, spaces will be limited, so we cannot promise a space for everyone who signs up.	Natasha Lee
2	for Natasha is Malaysia open for a collaboration with an NGO in the Philippines?	Good question!! We are always open for collaboration - guess the main question is in what area? Feel free to contact me after this conference: natasha@animalhappiness.asia	Natasha Lee
3	I am impressed to have attended this meeting, hope the materials will be shared with the attendees?	All the videos will be uploaded to our conference webpage later today - so you'll be able to look back at any resources the speakers recommend in their presentations - https://tinyurl.com/ICAMconf2024	Elly Hiby
4	Question for anyone - is there any non surgical method to effectively sterilize dogs?	There are - ACC&D have some great resources on non-surgical sterilisation methods: https://www.acc-d.org/	Bonny Cumming