Bite prevention and rabies awareness in school children

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Rabies-positive and negative cases, Harare Province (2010 - 2017)
302 / 364 (83%) of rabies-positive cases came from dogs
±87% of rabies-positive dogs were owned.

However, on average there are 26,000 dog bites occur annually.
The problem

While mass vaccination of dogs are important...

Public education on bite-case prevention and responsible pet ownership is equally important.

These two can be combined into one activity
We are using mass dog vaccination events as an opportunity to educate children, young adults and adults:

- rabies,
- bite prevention
- and responsible pet ownership
“Want a Friend, Be a Friend”
“Want a Friend, Be a Friend”

**DOGGIE LANGUAGE**
**WHAT IS MY DOG TELLING ME?**

- Alert
- Suspicious
- Anxious
- Threatened

- Angry
- Friendly
- "Need Space" whale eye
- "I'm Your Lovebug" belly-rub pose

**How kids **SHOULD** NOT** interact with dogs

It’s easy, just imagine how people should interact with one another

- Avoid taking people’s food.
- Avoid stealing other people’s toys.
- Avoid putting your face right up to someone else’s face.

- Avoid bothering dogs when they are eating.
- Avoid taking a dog’s bones or toys.
- Avoid putting your face right up to a dog’s face.
“Want a Friend, Be a Friend”

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP
5 FREEDOMS
It is our responsibility to make sure each animal has:

1. Healthy food and clean water
2. Shelter and comfort

BALANCED DIET AND FRESH WATER
All animals, just like us, need a balanced diet with all the nutrients, vitamins and minerals, calcium, protein and all the essential goodness we find in our food.

Foods we should and shouldn’t feed our animals:

YES
- Well-cooked meat
- Chicken
- Salmon
- Vegetables
- Fibre and cereals
- Sweet potatoes

NO
- Chocolate
- Grapes
- Onions
- Caffeine (coffee)
- Garlic
- Chewing gum
- Alcohol
“Want a Friend, Be a Friend”

**Rabies**

**What is Rabies?**

Rabies is a virus that affects only mammals and most commonly occurs in dogs. As the virus lives in saliva of infected mammals, it enters the body of healthy animals and people following bites or the licking of scratches and wounds. The virus causes death if left untreated.

We can prevent this killer disease by keeping our animals vaccinated against rabies.

- Avoid bites.
- Avoid picking up stray dogs.
- Avoid licks and scratches.

**Bite Prevention**
“Want a Friend, Be a Friend”

To date, more than 2,000 booklets have been donated to the children of Zimbabwe.
Thank You

This work is made possible by the generous support of the Global Alliance for Rabies Control