

# **2<sup>nd</sup> GARC-World Animal Protection rabies stakeholder workshop under the auspices of the Pan-African Rabies Control Network (PARACON)**

**26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Best Western Plus Accra Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana**



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We were known as **WSPA**  
(World Society for the  
Protection of Animals)



Dedicated to enhancing welfare and ending cruelty to animals across the world for over 30 years

Worked in Asia Pacific and MENA in Red Collar Campaign and LATIN America in PAHO rabies elimination programme.

Rescue of Dogs in disasters across the globe.

Our successes and ambitious plans for the future supported by hundreds of thousands of people, governments, international institutions and businesses in over 50 countries

We and our many partners share a common view that a sustainable world is one where animals are free from suffering.

# Dogs in communities

- Benefits of dogs in communities: companionship, security, assistance, disease detection etc.
- Research evidence on positive effects on human health and wellbeing
- But free roaming dogs present problems: zoonotic diseases transmission, dog bites, traffic accidents.



# Reasons for Dog – Human conflict



- Poor public perception
- Irresponsible dog breeding
- Lack of veterinary input
- Deficient legislation
- Political reasons



- Disease (rabies)
- Nuisance
- Dog bites
- Poor dog welfare
- Road traffic accidents
- Livestock predation
- Wildlife predation
- Fear

## Status of Dog population in Africa

- There are approximately 100 million dogs in Africa, majority of which are classified as either owned free-roaming dogs or true stray ownerless dogs.
- Countries in Africa have stray but mostly free-roaming dog populations tend to experience uncontrolled breeding.
- This increases the risk of rabies and other dog-community conflicts in these African countries.



## Status of Dog population in relation to SDG's

- It is estimated that by 2050 the human population in Africa will double. Since there is an inter-relation between human and dogs, the dog population in Africa will also rise exponentially.
- Therefore, it is vital for Africa to develop pragmatic strategies to tackle the issues around rabies, responsible dog ownership and dog population control.
- This will have a direct / indirect effect on Africa Meeting its SDG targets.



## GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN RABIES

*Dog-mediated human rabies kills tens of thousands of people every year worldwide. Freedom from dog-mediated human rabies is a global public good and is feasible with currently available tools.*

In accordance with the consensus of the Global Conference (Geneva, 10-11 December 2015), this framework provides a coordinated approach and vision for the global elimination of dog-mediated human rabies. It is intended to harmonize actions and provide adaptable, achievable guidance for country and regional strategies.

### The five pillars of rabies elimination (STOP-R)

#### 1 SOCIO-CULTURAL

Rabies control involves a wide range of stakeholders including the general public. The socio-cultural context influences rabies perceptions and dog-keeping practices of at-risk populations. Understanding the context guides approaches to motivate behavioural change and plan feasible delivery of services.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Awareness:** build awareness of dog-mediated rabies as a preventable global public health problem including through participation in initiatives such as World Rabies Day and the EndRabiesNow campaign
- **Responsible dog ownership:** promote responsible dog ownership and dog population management practices, including dog vaccination, in accordance with OIE standards
- **Bite prevention and treatment:** develop and implement education programmes on bite prevention and first aid for both children and adults
- **Post-exposure prophylaxis:** increase awareness and understanding of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) imperatives and options including intradermal administration
- **Community engagement:** encourage community involvement and engagement in activities to eliminate dog-mediated rabies

#### 2 TECHNICAL

Effective animal health and public health systems are required to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies. These systems must be strengthened and resourced appropriately, and gaps identified and filled.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Vaccination:** ensure safe, efficacious and accessible dog and human vaccines and immunoglobulins, and promote and implement mass dog vaccination as the most cost-effective intervention to achieve dog-mediated human rabies elimination
- **Logistics:** collect data on needs forecasts to inform the vaccine procurement system and to create and sustain the logistics and infrastructure required for effective delivery and implementation of mass dog vaccination programmes and PEP administration
- **Diagnostics:** ensure capacity and capability for rapid and accurate rabies diagnosis through accessible, well equipped laboratories and trained personnel
- **Surveillance:** support improved surveillance, sampling, reporting, and data-sharing
- **Technical support:** provide guidance and technical support for the development and tailoring of regional and national plans, including promoting the use of existing tools
- **Proof of concept:** support proof-of-concept programmes, and then scale up through leveraging of success

#### 3 ORGANIZATION

The One Health approach of close collaboration is applied. Leadership, partnership and coordination for rabies elimination activities arise from the human health and animal health sectors and other stakeholders.

**Includes activities for:**

- **One Health:** promote the One Health approach and intersectoral coordination through national and regional networks
- **Good governance:** establish good governance, including clear roles, chain of command, measurable outcomes and timelines
- **Harmonization:** align work plans and activities with national and regional priorities and approaches fostering synergies among sectors
- **Coordination:** coordinate and combine human resources, logistics and infrastructure of other programmes and initiatives, as appropriate and feasible
- **Indicators and performance:** identify targets and their indicators to support performance measurement, including surveillance and validation data, to identify areas requiring attention or extra support
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** support monitoring and evaluation of national plans to ensure timely and cost effective delivery

#### 4 POLITICAL

Success depends on political will and support for elimination of dog-mediated human rabies. Political will results from recognition of rabies elimination as a national, regional and global public good.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Political support:** political support is essential and most relevant during and following country instability (political upheaval, natural disasters, etc.)
- **International support:** encourage countries to request a resolution on dog-mediated human rabies elimination through the World Health Assembly (WHO) and the General Assembly of Delegates (OIE)
- **Legal frameworks:** establish and enforce appropriate legal frameworks for rabies notification and elimination
- **Demonstrating impacts:** demonstrate the compelling case for mass dog vaccination programmes and their impact on protecting and saving human lives
- **Regional engagement:** support active national and regional engagement and cooperation to commit to a rabies elimination programme and promote the exchange of lessons learnt and experiences to leverage resources and engagement

#### 5 RESOURCES

Rabies elimination activities frequently span several years and therefore require sustained, long-term support.

**Includes activities for:**

- **Case for investment:** promote the case for investment in dog-mediated human rabies elimination to persuade countries, policy makers and donors of the feasibility, merit and value of investing in rabies elimination strategies
- **Business plans:** prepare business plans based on the Global Framework for Dog-mediated Human Rabies Elimination
- **Investment:** encourage different forms of investment and partnerships (private and public investment) to leverage resources and engagement

#### CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

- Long-term political and social commitment
- Community engagement
- Sustainable vaccination of 70% of the at-risk dog population
- Proof of concept: start small, scale up
- Sufficient resources, logistics and infrastructure
- Promote vaccine banks and other strategies for acquisition of rabies immunoglobulins to ensure sufficient supply of quality-assured rabies vaccines and human immunoglobulin
- Reach remote, rural and at-risk populations
- Conduct performance measurement at all levels
- Maintain trained and motivated implementation personnel

**STRATEGIC VISION: zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030 in participating countries**

# The Framework



The framework is now made of up of five main pillars for the elimination of rabies which are as follows:

Pillar 1: Socio-cultural This includes rabies perceptions and **dog-keeping practices of target populations**. *Understanding the context guides approaches to motivate changes in behavior and plan feasible delivery of services.*

•  
❖ Pillar 2: Technical This includes **good animal health** and public health systems to effectively eliminate dog-mediated human rabies.



## So what is the real dog issue ?

The real question.

- ❖ Is the dog the problem or the symptom of the problem?
- ❖ So is the human responsible for the dog the problem?
- ❖ Is the dog a private or community responsibility
- ❖ Or is the government responsible for providing and ensuring balance, health and maintenance of a stable dog – human environment?
- ❖ Or is it a combination of 2 or more issue/problems

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# Stray dog management

Internationally the OIE have dedicated Chapter 7 of their terrestrial animal health laws to stray dog management.

The main areas it is divided into is:

- ⌘ Responsible dog ownership,
- ⌘ One health concept to reducing & maintaining healthy (Zoonosis) stray dog populations.



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# Dog culls are not the answer



- Widespread misconception that culling reduces rabies by reducing the number of dogs
- Evidence shows culls are expensive and ineffective
- Culling is an immediate stop gap measure, but problem soon returns
- Methods used are often inhumane
- Many owned dogs are killed, who may have already been vaccinated
- Many owners and residents protest culling
- Owners get new, unvaccinated pups and dogs
- This lowers 70% effective vaccination coverage, decreasing herd immunity
- As herd immunity decreases, zoonotic disease transmission probability increases.

# Our Approach of DPM

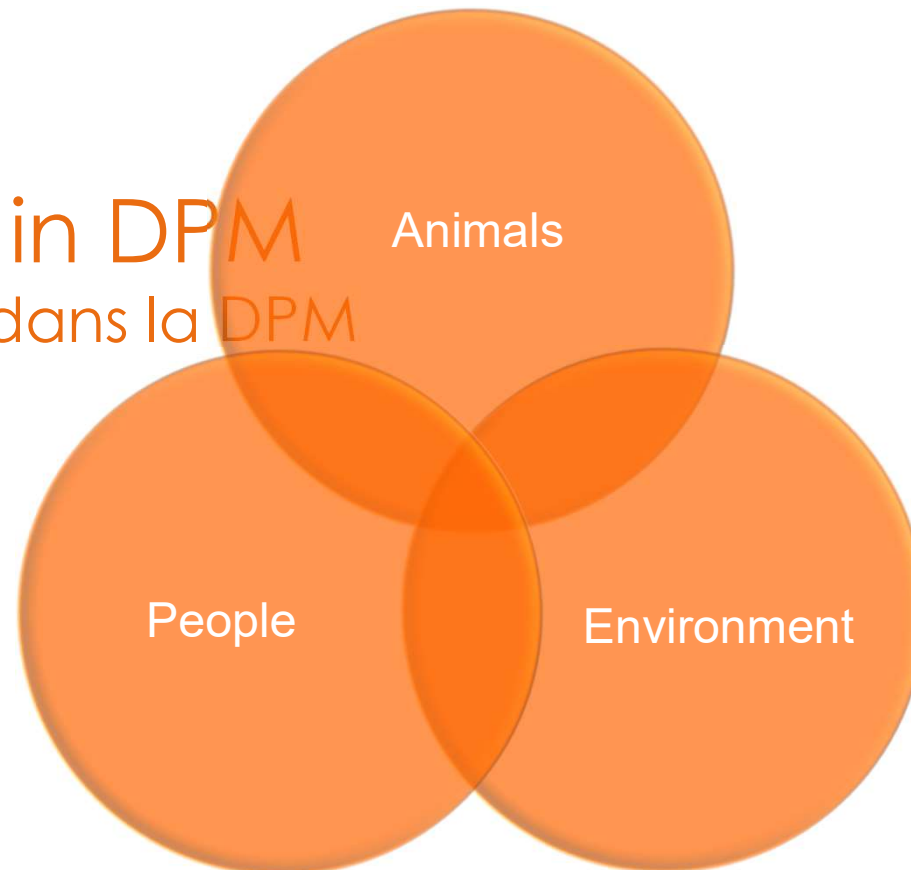
- For effective and sustainable elimination of rabies and controlled dog populations:
  - A holistic sustainable long term approach is needed
  - An approach that **is aimed at improving the welfare of dogs and creating an environment for harmonious co-existence**
- Breaking the belief that mass culling controls rabies and dog numbers
- Accepting that Mass dog vaccination alone will not solve the problem
- To date, we have worked with partners to further this holistic approach in Zanzibar, Southern Tanzania, Kenya and Sierra Leone.





# One Health in DPM

Une seule santé dans la DPM




Animal welfare in the management of companion animals

# What is needed is improved dog welfare? DPM Blueprint



## Components





Dog population  
management  
programmes are  
the answer

- Development of humane & sustainable solutions to rabies elimination and management of free roaming dogs
- These DPM programmes need to be multifaceted.
- These programmes are long term commitments
- Must address community concerns

# Steps to design a One Health programme

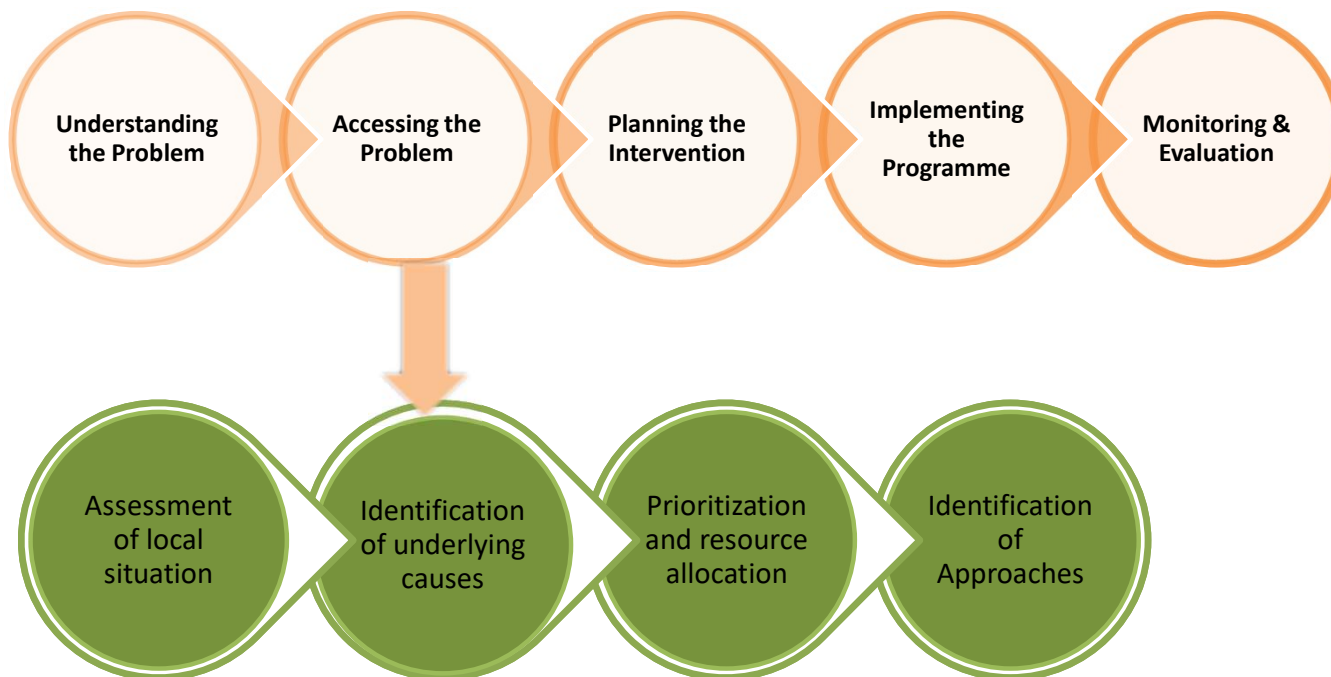
Concerns on roaming dogs differ or vary across societies, communities and geographical regions.

Programmes need to be tailored to these specific locational questions

Local dog populations

Knowledge, attitudes and practices; religious beliefs of community.

# Design Steps for 'DPM' Programme



# Key components of sustainably achieving DPM

Have	Competent Authority need to have the desire; political and financial support of higher authorities; capacity & competency to deliver an effective Animal health and DPM campaigns
Provide	Competent authorities need to provide health and education services whether public and or private partnerships within financial reach of the majority population
Delegate	Competent authorities need to delegate appropriate responsibility for the different facets of DPM to all the various players e.g sanitation, dog owners

## Things that are necessary to enhance DPM & rabies control according to publications that can be matched with our DPM blueprint elements



- ❖ Intersectoral and multinational collaboration and coordination
- ❖ Strong political commitment
- ❖ Control of dogs on street (true stray, allowed to roam, neighborhood)
- ❖ Studies on dog population and ecology, dog-human bond
- ❖ Health and community education (RPO, animal behaviour, dog management)
- ❖ Dog “management”
- ❖ Legislation supporting DPM

# Stakeholders/ Intervenants



At national and regional level:

- Legislators
- Min of Agriculture: vets and animal health depts.
- Min of Environment: sanitation depts.
- Ministry of Health: public health, zoonotic disease depts.
- Ministry of Education: School and Civic dept.
- Ministry of Tourism
- WHO, OIE, FAO
- NGO community
- Local community leaders and reps
- Academia: institutions and community
- Private medical & veterinary community
- Media: radio, TV, social media, community media, Print, TV



## Pillar 1: Socio-cultural

The areas in this pillar that touch on RDO mainly are:

- RDO – promotion of responsible dog ownership and dog management practices, dog population control
- Bite prevention & treatment in both children & adults
- Community engagement

The background of the slide is a photograph of three men walking several dogs in a grassy field. The man in the center is wearing a red and blue striped shirt and is holding a leash. The man on the left is wearing a blue shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a black shirt. There are four dogs visible: a white dog in the foreground, a black and tan dog, a black dog, and a brown and white dog. The text 'Responsible Pet Ownership' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, orange font.

# Responsible Pet Ownership

- ❑ Dog owners must understand their role in contributing to the roaming dog population and its negative impacts on neighbor's and rabies control, and take responsibility for minimizing roaming dogs. **But do they know their responsibility**
- ❑ Dog owners need to understand why they must vaccinate, minimize breeding and control their dogs and be willing and capable of presenting them for immunization
- ❑ We as the animal health fraternity need to understand our responsibility in education them.

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# Pillar 1: Socio-cultural



- Area of Education:
  - Education Dog owners on welfare needs of dog and how to provide
  - Community Education through public awareness, vital to get understanding of community and ensuring their support is vital to programmes sustainability.
  - Education of children through school education programmes.
- ❑ Please note that across regions there are very fluid, cultural, social and economic dynamics that determine the cultural dynamism of peoples perceptions of dogs and their ecology.
- ❑ Therefore necessary to undertake KAPS and Ecological studies to baseline and create relevant education programmes

# Pillar 2: Technical



- **Identifying & Registering Dogs**
  - Very effective in connecting the owner and dog, is stimulus to enhance RDO
  - Strengthens enforcement and adherence of legislation especially in areas of abandonment and welfare regulations, breeding, dog trading and working dog regulations
  - The fees from this help support provision of humane dog management services.
  - Various methods – Microchips, tattoo's, collars & tags
  - Again this is dependent on peoples social cultural economic attitudes and local dog ecology and addressing the knowledge gaps.

## Pillar 4: Political

- **Broad areas of legislation are:**

- Legislation for dog owners
- Legislation for persons handling dogs
- Legislation for institutions handling dogs
- Legislation at to governments responsibilities with and things associated with dogs.
- Legislation for veterinarians



## Pillar 4: Political



- **Controlling Access to Dogs** Dogs roam where they can get access to food, water and shelter.
  - Access to garbage or handouts (by restaurants and kind citizens in market or residential places) enhances and encourages roaming.
  - This has zoonotic implication for both humans & local dog population.
  - Also vast health related issues to the dogs whether free roaming or true stray.

## Conclusion

- Improving the welfare of dogs which supports elimination of rabies is key priority for World Animal Protection and we are currently running a global campaign (Better Lives 4 Dogs) to achieve this.
- We have outlined our approach in our newly published resource entitled 'Humane Dog Management: Better lives for dogs and communities'.
- We will continue to collaborate with key institutions, communities across Africa to ensure that we realise our common vision of a canine rabies free Africa.
- We reiterate our willingness to cooperate with governments across the continent and share our years of knowledge and experience in order to create an African continent where dogs and humans have harmonious co-existence.





Thank you