



## Annual Report

2014



**GARCC**  
rabiesalliance.org

GLOBAL ALLIANCE  
FOR RABIES CONTROL



By this time tomorrow at least  
160 people will die of rabies;  
more than half will be children.

In the poverty-stricken areas where the disease is most prevalent the scarcity of palliative care means the victims' final days are torturous; many victims are strapped to a bed or locked in a room until they die.

Meanwhile, dogs, which cause 95% of human rabies cases, are subjects of fear and contempt. Every day thousands of animals are indiscriminately culled in misguided – and sometimes counterproductive – attempts to prevent the disease.

Rabies is 'tool-ready': effective and inexpensive control tools are known and available and implementation is feasible.

**Every rabies death is avoidable.**

### **The Global Alliance for Rabies Control is the world's first non-profit organisation dedicated to eliminating rabies**

Our vision is a world free of human rabies. Our mission is to eliminate all human deaths from canine rabies and relieve the burden of rabies in animal populations, especially dogs.

We work with governments, veterinary and public health experts, educators and communities to eliminate rabies in areas hardest hit by the disease.

This includes:

- Protecting people from the terror, poverty, suffering and death caused by this entirely preventable disease, which still kills over 59,000 people every year, 99% of them from the world's poorest communities
- Promoting healthy relationships between people and dogs
- Alleviating the burden of the disease in animals in general

## A Note from the Chair of the Board

There is a new optimism in the field of rabies prevention, a real sense that we are making progress. From research breakthroughs to success in field projects there are glimmers of the ultimate goal – a rabies-free world.

That's not to say that there isn't a long way to go. But sitting down to write this introduction to our annual report gives me the opportunity to reflect on how far we have come since 2007, when the Global Alliance for Rabies Control was founded.

In a few short years, we have shown that incredible results are possible by encouraging people to work together against rabies and by providing the right support for them to do so. And I don't use the word 'incredible' lightly.

We have consistently identified gaps in knowledge and conducted peer-reviewed research and field models to address those gaps.

To demonstrate that rabies control was feasible across Asia and Africa we supported large-scale community-led intersectoral projects that serve as powerful models for resource-poor countries. The projects protect over 4.3 million people, of which 1,360,000 are children, from the threat of rabies, and over 200,000 dogs through mass canine vaccination programmes.

We created the Partners for Rabies Prevention group, a forum to unite major international stakeholders – including the World Health Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization – to gain consensus and take the next steps toward global elimination of rabies.

We launched World Rabies Day with our partners, celebrated annually on September 28, to highlight the need to continue the fight against this disease.

These and other achievements are the foundations of a rabies-free world and 2014 saw us looking forward, developing our strategy to go into the next phase of building that world. To lead GARC on this journey I am delighted to welcome Professor Louis Nel to the role of Executive Director. He brings exactly the experience and standing in the rabies prevention world that GARC needs to move forward.

While this is GARC's annual report, our work isn't just about us. Rabies elimination takes coordinated and consistent effort from all stakeholders, and themes around partnership, collaboration and teamwork crop up throughout this report. We are grateful to everyone who shares our vision of a rabies-free world, from community volunteers to international organizations. Together we can end rabies.



Professor Deborah Briggs



## Our History

2007

- Foundation of GARC
- First World Rabies Day
- MoU signed for comprehensive field programme with government of Bohol, Philippines covering population of 1,139,130 in 152,324 households
- Scientific publications: World Rabies Day: focusing attention on a neglected disease

2008

- Partners for Rabies Prevention created
- Road map for rabies prevention & control
- Piloted rabies education in elementary school curriculum in Bohol
- Scientific publications: Can rabies be eradicated?

2009

- Rabies school curriculum fully integrated into all 962 elementary schools in Bohol
- Launch of online platform of free educational materials on rabies
- Global priorities for development of tools and models identified
- Local community engagement increases rabies elimination program from 124 government staff prior to 2007 to about 15,021 in 2009

2010

- Blueprint for Canine Rabies Control – first One Health standard operating procedure
- Internationally designed proof of concept studies on sustainability of rabies elimination
- School curriculum on rabies developed by professional educators tested in India
- Requested to coordinate major research initiatives on immuno-contraceptives for dogs
- Scientific publications: Rabies in the 21 century; Catalysing action against rabies

2011

- Asked by WHO and BMGF to conduct health economics assessment of WHO-coordinated projects in Tanzania, South Africa and the Philippines
- Convened first meeting of experts to develop health economics models to help governments to evaluate cost effectiveness of prevention methods
- Bohol is declared rabies free
- Intersectoral model in Bohol won prestigious GalingPook award and honoured by President of the Philippines as example of community project that should be replicated
- World Rabies Day estimated to have reached more than 150 countries and 182 million people with rabies prevention messages and helped to vaccinate 7.7 million animals
- Scientific publications: Renewed global partnerships and redesigned roadmaps for rabies prevention and control; Evaluation of cost-effective strategies for rabies post-exposure vaccination in low-income countries; Recent advances in prevention and control of rabies

2012

- Following country requests, GARC and FAO organised first workshop on a 'Stepwise Approach towards Rabies Elimination', a tool to aid rabies endemic countries
- Scaling up the pilot projects for rabies elimination and education into other regions of the Philippines, Tanzania and Chad – Ilocos Norte and Sorsogon projects begin
- Scientific publications: 5 published papers

2013

- N'djamena, Chad project ends
- Projects begin in Jamshedpur, India and Nias, Indonesia
- GARC wins UK Charity Award for Healthcare and Medical Research
- WHO/OIE/FAO joint statement in support of global rabies elimination, made for World Rabies Day. This resolution taken at a Partners for Rabies Prevention meeting
- World Health Assembly adopts resolution on all 17 neglected tropical diseases , including rabies
- GARC invited by WHO to address ministers of public health - first NGO to present statement on rabies at the WHO World Health Assembly.
- Fox Rabies Blueprint launched
- Invited to assist in development of ASEAN regional rabies elimination roadmap
- Scientific publications: 11 published papers

2014

- Collaboration with WHO to assess the cost-effectiveness of rabies control measures at a global level - health economic analysis of rabies control projects published.
- Collaboration with WHO,OIE and FAO on the development of a global investment case for rabies.
- Bat rabies prevention package for school children
- Global One Health Challenge
- Social media campaign - Me and my dog
- Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination tool launched
- Presented at Global Vaccine and Immunization Research Forum, first time that rabies was presented at this forum
- Communicating Health Advocacy Mentorship Program launched for journalists
- Scientific publications: 4 published papers
- Becomes a member of the Philippines National Rabies Prevention and Control Committee (NRPCC) led by the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry

## A letter from our Executive Director

A handover in leadership is a natural moment for reflection. As Debbie rightly says, GARC has achieved some fantastic results. As we move now to the next phase of our strategy we will use our proven evidence base and international networks to support policy change and advocate for national, regional and global elimination of rabies.

In 2014 we set the goal of global elimination of human deaths from canine rabies by 2030. With this in mind GARC took the lead on regional coordination with the announcement in September of the Pan-African Rabies Control Network. The development of regional networks across Asia and Africa will spur new national programmes and allow an easier exchange of expertise between those facing similar challenges.

These networks will be complemented by our global Partners for Rabies Prevention steering committee, which will promote coordination at the global level, as well as contribute to national government efforts by providing expertise for capacity building.

Alongside these networks, in 2015 GARC will launch an End Rabies campaign to support its advocacy activities in Europe and the US, to raise awareness among international policy makers and donor institutions, leading to increased support for rabies-endemic countries.

World Rabies Day continues to grow in countries where the burden is greatest. We engaged new audiences with the Global One Health Challenge for medical and veterinary students, and sent out joint media messages with our partners about rabies prevention. This will not only help to save lives in the community but also encourage governments to take rabies control forward.

GARC's goal is global elimination of rabies, but no single organization could achieve elimination of the only globally occurring neglected tropical disease found in more than 150 countries. Teamwork is the thread that runs through all of GARC's work. We are grateful to all our donors and partners - traveling around the world it is obvious to me as I talk to stakeholders around the world that our work is making a difference.



Professor Louis Nel



## Partnership and collaboration

All of our work is built around collaboration with other stakeholders – for rabies to be truly eliminated a true One Health approach is needed.

### Partners for Rabies Prevention



*Global stakeholders and experts gather at the Partners in Rabies Prevention meeting in Switzerland, hosted by UBS Optimus Foundation*

### Our biggest partnership initiative is the Partners for Rabies Prevention (PRP) network.

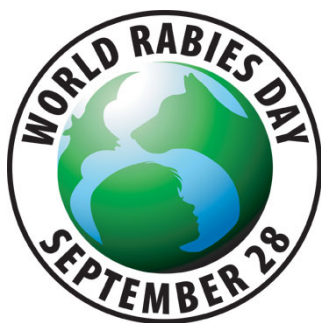
The PRP consists of major existing stakeholders in the field of rabies prevention and control, and functions as a technical arm for GARC while also uniting and focusing the global rabies community on the common objective of dog rabies elimination. Much of the available data on the scale of and costs of the rabies problem, and also the evidence that rabies control is feasible has been based on academic research projects linked to GARC's PRP group. In 2014 the PRP group completed research on the reassessment of the global burden of canine rabies, a worldwide survey on human rabies surveillance and economic evaluations of rabies control programmes. It also launched an updated Blueprint for Canine Rabies control with improved tools and guidance to support surveillance activities and a Stepwise Approach (SARE), which guides countries towards their rabies elimination goals.



## Partnerships around World Rabies Day

Our biggest communication initiative is the annual World Rabies Day, which was created with the US CDC, and supported among others, by WHO, OIE, FAO. We collaborate on World Rabies Day initiatives with many stakeholders, and in 2014 we were fortunate to have some great partners spreading the message with us:

- The Global One Health Challenge – In collaboration with the IVSA and IFMSA, medical and veterinary students supported raising rabies prevention awareness in their communities.
- The Pan American World Rabies Day Initiative, with the AVMA, CVMA, FIAVAC, PANVET, PAHO, WAP and WSAVA, to bring attention to the issue of rabies across the Americas and send out a unified message on World Rabies Day to governments and the public.
- A joint release with the World Medical Association and World Veterinary Association, to raise awareness that rabies prevention is a collaborative effort that needs medical and veterinary stakeholders to save lives.



### Global One Health Challenge-

28 entries received from 17 countries – from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. Collectively the teams vaccinated 12,496 animals and reached out directly to 94,358 people with educational messages. The indirect reach, via radio and TV spots, included more than 1.5 million people. The winners were announced in 2015.

## Partnership in project sites

Our in-country projects in the Philippines and Indonesia are led by local and national government partners. This partner-first approach is key to establishing sustainable control programmes which strengthen the capacity of the local institutions, and GARC has been recognised as the official non-governmental organisation for the Philippines' National Rabies Prevention and Control Committee.

This requires ongoing coordination with the relevant government departments including the Departments of Health, Agriculture and Education. In 2014 the integration of rabies prevention education into the curriculum in Ilocos Norte was launched.

As a science-led organisation, GARC has developed monitoring and evaluation frameworks to capture quantitative and qualitative project data. The publication of these activities in peer-reviewed scientific publications ensures that lessons learnt are shared with the global community.



*Dr Dianne Licuan ,GARC field veterinarian, and Dr Loida Valenzuela, Provincial Veterinarian for Ilocos Norte, take part in a media forum together to raise awareness of rabies and its prevention in the province.*



### 2013/2014 Facts and Figures:

Dogs vaccinated: **125,121**

Population protected: **2,811,255**

Children benefiting  
from rabies curriculum: **70,888**

Villages covered by program: **1,951**

Increase in % of bite victims who wash  
bite wounds with soap and water: **65%**

**73%** of dog bite victims consult primary  
health care centre within three days.



Pre-school children at Barangay Kanluran Day Care Center in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, Philippines, during the Early Childhood Intervention, piloted in key areas of the Philippines, which highlights the use of edutainment in teaching children about animal bites and rabies prevention.

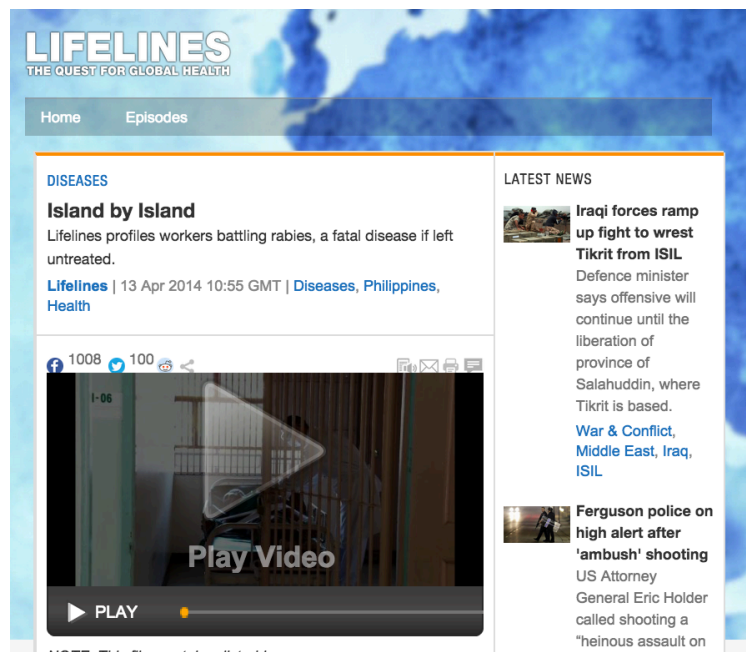
## Lifelines

In April 2014, the Al Jazeera series, Lifelines, featured GARC's community-led intersectoral projects in the Philippines.

The series focused on eight diseases that afflict vulnerable communities and the first was a programme on rabies filmed during 2013 with the cooperation of GARC and the Philippines government.

Broadcast on Al Jazeera English and supported by an online platform and social media campaign, the programme brought into focus the dreadful uncertainty and debilitating financial burden that bite victims face, as well as the anguished suffering of those who go on to develop and die of rabies. The programme is available to watch on YouTube <https://youtu.be/NcwAxo1YE2M>.

A screenshot from the Al Jazeera Lifelines website



NOTE: This film contains disturbing

# Research

Rooted in the scientific community, GARC has consistently identified knowledge gaps that hinder the elimination of rabies and undertaken work to fill those gaps.

## In 2014:

### Accepted For Publication:

Surveillance of Human Rabies by National Authorities – A Global Survey, in Zoonoses and Public Health

### Published:

Blueprint/Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination - <http://caninerabiesblueprint.org/A-stepwise-approach-to-planning>

### Published:

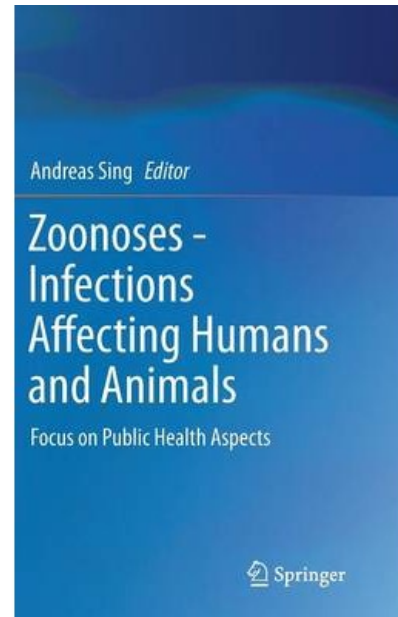
*Infectious Disease: Implementing Pasteur's vision for rabies elimination*, in Science

### Book Chapter:

*Factors Impacting the Control of Rabies*, in One Health: People, Animals, and the Environment

### Model:

Worked with WHO to adapt the WHO-CHOICE model for rabies



### Book Chapter:

*Elimination of Rabies—A Missed Opportunity*, in Zoonoses – Infections Affecting Humans and Animals: Focus on Public Health Aspects



### Updated:

Canine Rabies Blueprint – <http://caninerabiesblueprint.org/>

# Global Awareness

GARC plays a significant role in raising the profile of rabies at all levels of society and this is reflected in its achievements during 2014.

## World Rabies Day 2014

Initiated by GARC in 2007, World Rabies Day has had a huge influence on mobilizing action on ground and uniting activists. This year efforts focused on endemic countries and 260 events from across 48 countries were shared on our website, an increase of 48% from 2013.

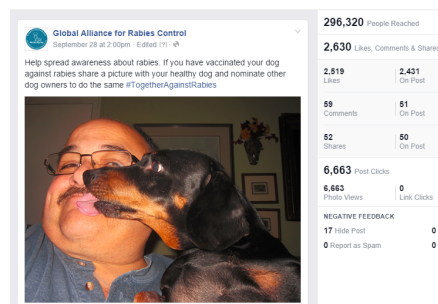


The global spread of registered World Rabies Day events 2014



### Me and My Dog

Social media photo posts tagged with #TogetherAgainstRabies were seen by over 1.2 million unique users on Facebook and 5,500 unique users on Twitter, where it trended nationally in India.



A successful post from the Me and My Dog campaign

**‘The registration of these events in the GARC website...has yielded a new turn ...(the) Veterinary Medical Officer of Pondicherry who also registered an event and we at this medical school are teaming up for a lot of activities, which I believe ... will initiate a new vigour towards rabies control in Pondicherry. Thanks to GARC!’**

*Dr. Johnson, Indira Gandhi Medical College & Research Institute, Pondicherry, India, a World Rabies Day event organizer*

## Supporting policy change

Too many rabies prevention schemes offer only short-term protection. Dog vaccination and sterilization are part of the solution but if they are not integrated within a sustainable structure the disease re-emerges. To support policy change and move towards global elimination, GARC has developed ground-breaking tools, and in 2014 continued to strengthen and expand those tools.

### The Canine Rabies Blueprint

This how-to guide for policy makers and rabies programme managers who want to reduce rabies infections first appeared in 2010 and since then has been accessed by people in 195 countries. This year the Blueprint underwent a full revision, with updated links and information, to keep it fresh and relevant.

### Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination

The Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination (SARE) is one of the Blueprint’s new components, developed in response to questions from national governments such as “What do we need to put in place to eliminate rabies?” and “How do we know that we are making progress towards this goal?” The SARE stages enable governments to make strategic resource choices towards the long-term goal of rabies elimination, even where funding is extremely limited.

“I would argue that the largest hurdle to the elimination of dog and human rabies lies in the lack of political priority and will.”

*Professor Louis Nel*



## Pan-African Rabies Control Network (PARACON)

In September GARC announced the launch of PARACON, the Pan-African Rabies Control Network. This network merges the Southern and Eastern African Rabies Group (SEARG) and the Northern and Western Africa focused African Rabies Expert Bureau (AfroREB), and also includes African countries that have not formerly belonged to either SEARG or AfroREB.

The inaugural meeting will be held in June 2015, and will build upon the objectives and initiatives of previous regional networks to:

1. Find solutions to rabies in Africa, focused on rabies elimination
2. Disseminate and share information and experience relevant to rabies control;
3. Improve rabies data reporting
4. Improve medical diagnosis and knowledge
5. Promote governmental support of rabies elimination programmes.

Countries will be encouraged to engage with the Blueprint/SARE stages and take constructive steps towards rabies elimination, using tools such as World Rabies Day and the Canine Rabies Blueprint, as well as the Health Economics and Education evidence provided by GARC and its partners.

Similar regional network support is also provided for the Asian region (South Asia and Southeast Asia).



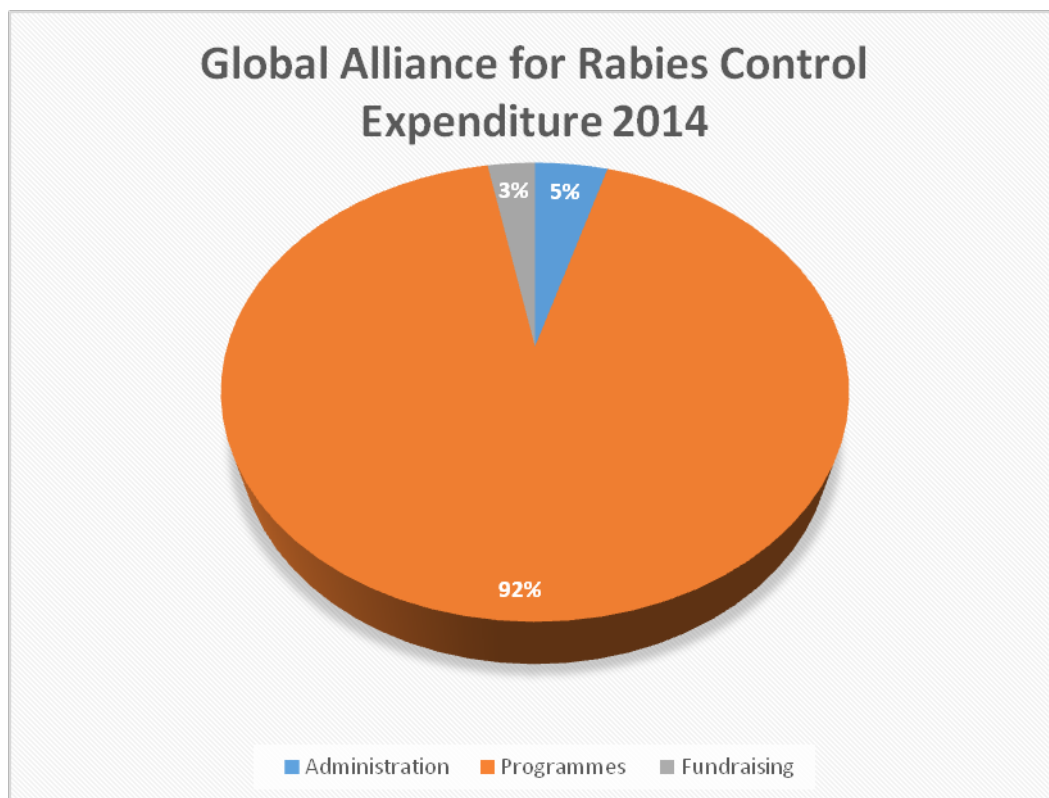
# Financial Accounts 2014

## GARC continued to grow despite challenging financial climate

In 2014, GARC’s total income increased by 39% from 2013 income of USD \$982,561 to USD \$1,361,238. This figure excludes in-kind support. GARC benefited from significant in-kind support from our project partners. The Philippines and Indonesian governments contributed the salaries of those associated with project delivery in their respective countries and in 2013/2014 the OIE Vaccine Bank provided 200,000 doses of vaccines for the different project sites. Expenditure of USD \$1,197,644 was similar to the 2013 figure of USD \$1,200,897.

At the same time, even as we continue to receive strong support from existing funders, securing new sources of funding is likely to present an ongoing challenge given the neglected status of rabies. Recognizing this, GARC is seeking to raise the profile of the disease within the international donor community.

Looking into the future, GARC’s first priority is the development of the Asian and African networks, to provide a platform to support national and regional elimination plans. We expect 2015 income to be on par with 2014 as several grant agreements come to an end and GARC focuses on the delivery of its existing models and tools.





# Thank you

We would like to thank our supporters and partners who have enabled us to make substantial progress, and with whose help and support we will continue to eliminate deaths from rabies.

<p><b>Foundations:</b>                      Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation                      Fondation Merieux                      UBS Optimus Foundation</p> <p><b>Corporate Partners:</b>                      Crucell                      Google                      Merial                      MSD Animal Health                      Sanofi Pasteur</p> <p><b>Program Partners:</b>                      Association of Prevention and Control of Rabies in India (APCRI)                      Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency                      American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)                      Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)                      Humane Society International (HSI)                      Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut                      International Companion Animal Coalition (ICAM)                      International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)                      International Veterinary Student's Association (IVSA)                      Institut Pasteur                      Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO)                      Republic of Indonesia                      Republic of the Philippines                      Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute                      United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)                      United States Department of Agriculture                      University of Glasgow                      World Animal Health Organisation (OIE)                      World Animal Protection                      World Health Organisation (WHO)                      World Medical Association (WMA)                      World Veterinary Association (WVA)</p>	<p><b>Individual donors:</b>                      Alexandra Spitler                      Amber Reid                      Amy Carey                      Ashley Banyard                      Austin Webb                      Beth Watson                      Carl Bolon                      Dr. Charles Rupprecht and Nancy A. Di Falco                      Cheryl Burns                      David Cundy                      Deborah McPhadden                      Diana Clark                      Elizabeth Siler                      Eric Keisman                      Goodshop                      Greatergood.org                      Hywel George                      Iris Müller                      Jacalyn Kolk                      Jarred Jackson                      Jennifer Schaub                      Jennifer Sullivan                      John Lasiter                      John Santilli                      Joycelyn Thompson                      Julie Steinbach                      Kenneth Machere                      Kim Doyle                      Laurel Kaddatz                      Louise Taylor                      Mark Belknap                      Markeia Scruggs                      Mayfair Animal Hospital</p>	<p><b>Individual donors:</b>                      Michelle Salois                      Monica Joshi                      Nicole Webster                      Pablo Andrade                      Pet Travel Specialists                      Pete Wedderburn                      Peter Miotk                      Peter Schweinsberg                      Philip Sargent                      Przemyslaw Belzak                      Radan al Qasimi                      Rene Carlson                      Rosalinda Bustamante                      Rosanna Morrison                      Samantha Bandy Dyer                      Sara Elliott                      Sarah Fishwick                      Scot Frassetto                      Serge Sablyak                      Steven Pawela                      Steven Smith                      Szilvia Galdi                      Tonji Durant                      Town &amp; Country Veterinary Clinic                      Tristan Breetz                      Tristan J Holotnak                      UF Student Chapter of the AVMA                      Uptown Charlie                      Victor Del Rio Vilas                      Victor Persson                      Yvonne Storey                      ZogSports</p>
--	---	--







Global Alliance for Rabies Control  
529 Humboldt St., Suite 1  
Manhattan  
Kansas 66502  
USA

<http://rabiesalliance.org>

[info@rabiesalliance.org](mailto:info@rabiesalliance.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalAllianceforRabiesControl>

<http://twitter.com/RabiesAlliance>

Photos on the front and back covers are provided courtesy of UBS Optimus Foundation.



**GARC**  
rabiesalliance.org

GLOBAL ALLIANCE  
FOR RABIES CONTROL