

5.3. Who do we need to train and in what?

Provision of professional training for a canine rabies control programme should include the personnel described in this section. Click [here](#) for a list of agencies that can provide this training.

This section contains information on the following:

- [5.3.1. Rabies surveillance](#)
- [5.3.2. Dog component](#)
- [5.3.3. Human component](#)
- [5.3.4. Others](#)

5.3.1. Rabies surveillance

Rabies surveillance personnel and investigation officers (e.g. veterinary officers, paravets, livestock field officers, extension officers, field assistants and game wardens and medical personnel who should be communicating and working closely with field investigation personnel) in:

- Basic collection of epidemiological data such as animal rabies cases, human bite exposures and human rabies cases, described [here](#).
- Collection of animal diagnostic samples, packaging and submission to diagnostic laboratories for testing, described [here](#).
- Epidemiological investigation of human and canine rabies.

Epidemiologists

- Gathering of essential epidemiological data (e.g. vaccination coverage, animal rabies incidence, human bite exposures and human rabies deaths, human vaccine doses delivered), database management, data analysis and interpretation to monitor progress of intervention.
- Reporting and dissemination of information.
- Epidemiological investigation of human and canine rabies.

Technical staff in rabies diagnostic laboratories in:

- General laboratory protocols and procedures.
- Maintenance/servicing of equipment (fridges/freezers, microscopes, etc.).
- Preparation/handling/storage of reagents.
- Basic rabies diagnostic techniques, described [here](#) and [here](#).
- Data recording and reporting of laboratory findings.

5.3.2. Dog component

National rabies project coordinator (who may be designated within the Ministry of Agriculture or Health) in:

- Project/people management/coordination (including training of key personnel).
- All aspects related to rabies epidemiology and control programmes.
- Collection/analysis of basic epidemiological data.
- Budgeting and accounting.
- Procurement of vaccines, consumables and capital equipment.

- ▶ Preparation, analysis and interpretation of reports.
- ▶ Epidemiological investigation of human and canine rabies.
- ▶ Exchange of information and coordination of rabies control activities between human and animal health sectors.

Veterinary staff in:

- ▶ Diagnosis of clinical signs of rabies and appropriate response, as described [here](#).
- ▶ Evaluation and disposition of animals, e.g. observation of biting/suspect rabid animals or immediate euthanasia as described [here](#) and [here](#).
- ▶ Collection of animal diagnostic samples, packaging and submission to diagnostic laboratory for testing, as described [here](#).
- ▶ Delivery of key messages to dog owners on responsible ownership.
- ▶ Vaccination (see animal vaccinators below).
- ▶ Justification for population management and humane methods of dog capture, euthanasia (e.g. suspect rabid animals based on bite history and clinical signs) and reproductive control (surgical sterilization) including anaesthesia, analgesia and post-operative care, as described [here](#) and [here](#).
- ▶ Accurate recording of veterinary data.
- ▶ Veterinary legislation (including notification) and zoo-sanitary requirements for animal movements, as described in the [legislation section](#).
- ▶ Their role in related public health issues to reinforce exchange of information between human and animal health sector (monitoring of biting animals, timely testing of samples and reporting of results to medical officials).
- ▶ Epidemiological investigation of human and canine rabies.

Animal vaccinators (e.g. veterinarians, paravets, livestock officers, agricultural extension officers, animal health workers, veterinary assistants, veterinary students, community assistants and volunteers) in:

- ▶ Advertising techniques including information/motivation of local communities, as described [here](#).
- ▶ Standardized data collection methods (e.g. owner/dog information registration) and completion of certificates.
- ▶ Handling and care of veterinary equipment.
- ▶ Humane methods of dog capture/restraint for vaccination. Click [here](#) to access the protocol.
- ▶ Currently OIE [1] recommended animal vaccines for parenteral (click [here](#) for more information) and oral (click [here](#) for more information) use. This is critical since in some areas outdated and ineffective vaccines are still being used, which will jeopardize programmes and demotivate personnel.
- ▶ Vaccine storage and administration. Click [here](#) to access the protocol.



Photo courtesy of Serengeti Carnivore Disease Project

- ▶ Dog vaccination protocols for any given strategy (i.e. fixed vaccination posts, mobile clinics or house-to-house) and delivery method (i.e. parenteral and oral vaccination) used, as described [here](#).
- ▶ Animal marking methods, described [here](#).
- ▶ Follow-up data collection (e.g. for estimation of vaccination coverage).

Managers and staff of animal shelters (including volunteers) in:

- ▶ Procedures for dog care and husbandry.
- ▶ Handling of dogs.
- ▶ Monitoring of health and provision of required veterinary treatments.
- ▶ Procedures for rehoming, sterilization and humane euthanasia.
- ▶ Record keeping and reporting to authorities.

Vaccination support personnel and drivers

Animal welfare inspectors (e.g. wardens and animal control officers) in:

- ▶ Education of public and enforcement of relevant animal health and welfare legislation/regulations.
- ▶ Handling and care of veterinary equipment.
- ▶ Animal marking methods.
- ▶ Information/motivation of local communities.

Dog meat handlers (slaughterhouse workers, meat packers and processors), for countries where applicable, should be trained in safe handling of dogs and risks involved when slaughtering dogs, described [here](#).

Technical staff in rabies vaccine laboratories if production has to be carried out locally, according to published guidelines provided [here](#).

Ecological survey personnel in dog census techniques, described [here](#).

Administrative and clerical staff in:

- ▶ Procurement of equipment and consumables.
- ▶ Data entry and database management.

[1] World Organization for Animal Health

5.3.3. Human component

Health-care personnel (medical and nursing staff) in :

- ▶ Correct assessment of what constitutes a rabies exposure (in relation to animal clinical history) and when administration of anti-rabies serum/rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) and anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) is appropriate, as described [here](#) and [here](#). This will be important to ensure that unnecessary use of costly vaccine does not occur.
- ▶ Provide appropriate medical advice to affected individuals.
- ▶ Importance and correct methods of management of animal-bite injuries, as described [here](#) and [here](#).
- ▶ Currently WHO recommended human [vaccines listed here](#).
- ▶ Storage (including duration of vaccine storage after reconstitution) and transportation of vaccine.
- ▶ Administration of RIGs and intra-muscular and less expensive intra-dermal regimens for administration of ARV.
- ▶ Treatment of adverse reactions to vaccination.
- ▶ Patient care.
- ▶ Accurate recording of hospital data (e.g. animal-bite injury data, human rabies deaths, vaccine doses delivered).
- ▶ Collection of human diagnostic samples, described [here](#).

- ▶ Legislation, including notification. Read also [here](#) to learn about legislative frameworks.
- ▶ Need for exchange of information between human and animal health sector (e.g. monitoring of biting animals).

5.3.4. Others

All workers at increased risk of rabies infection including groups who work with pets, livestock, and wildlife, laboratory staff and medical staff at risk of exposure to humans infected with rabies in:

- ▶ The disease, its characteristics and the nature of the risk.
- ▶ Preventive measures (precautions, equipment for dealing with rabid animals, and pre-/post-exposure immunization needs).
- ▶ Workplace hygiene (e.g. appropriate infrastructure, biohazard control in laboratories, etc.).

Click [here](#) for international guidelines on biosafety and biosecurity.

Law enforcement bodies (e.g. lawyers, police and animal welfare inspectors).