

COMPANION ANIMAL INFORM

Rabies – a horrifying disease

Rabies is a horrific viral disease which attacks the nervous system and is transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. It is one of the earliest known human infectious diseases, with written records indicating it was present thousands of years ago. Rabies can affect all mammals such as humans, dogs, cats, rodents, lions and other wild life. Domestic dogs are the main reservoir of human infection.

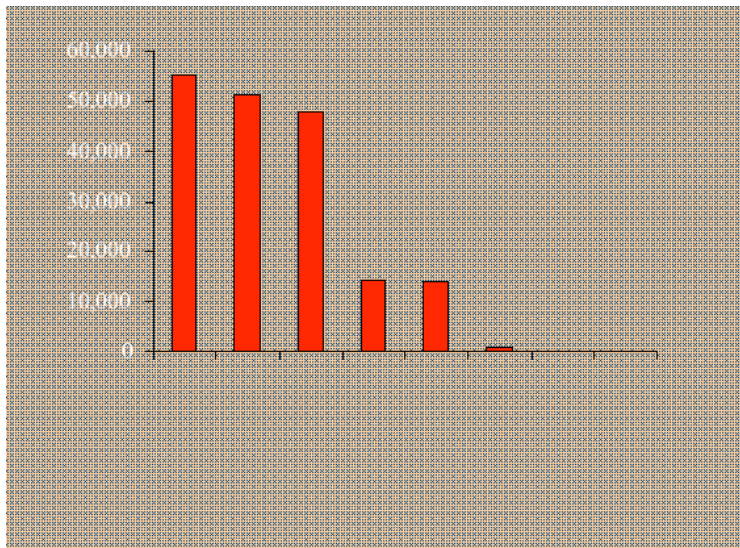
Rabies is a much larger problem than most people recognise. Particularly prevalent in rural areas of Asia and Africa, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 55,000 people die from the disease each year with approximately 10 million people receiving treatment after being exposed to animals thought to have the disease. Children are particularly at risk from rabies due to their close contact with dogs and the fact that they're more likely than adults to suffer multiple bites and bites to the face and head, both of which carry a higher risk of contracting the disease.

Following a dog bite, a victim can suffer months of anxiety, fearing that rabies may develop. This is particularly true for people living in remote and rural areas of Africa and Asia. Clinical signs of the disease include loss of appetite, fever, seizures, salivation, paralysis, aggression and hydrophobia. Once the signs start to develop, rabies is invariably fatal.

Prophylaxis (post-bite vaccination) after exposure to a rabid animal consists of injections of vaccine plus immunoglobulin against rabies. World wide 80% of the human deaths are among rural populations, who may not have access to prophylaxis or – at \$ 100 US for immunoglobulin and \$ 40 for a course of vaccine – be able to afford it.

Underestimated

Rabies is showing the highest mortality rate among infectious diseases.



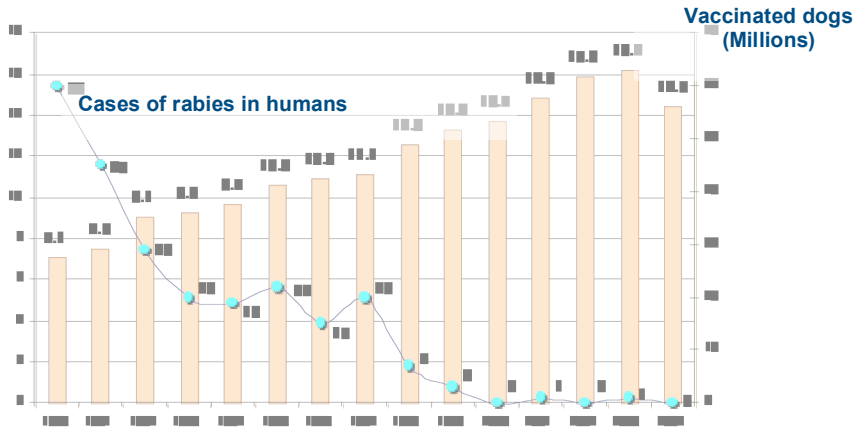
Even so the disease is still widely under-reported and misdiagnosed. Rabies is considered as relatively insignificant and there is little political will for control.

Rabies is unique in that it is endemic in high-income countries, including the U.S.A. and much of the European countries.

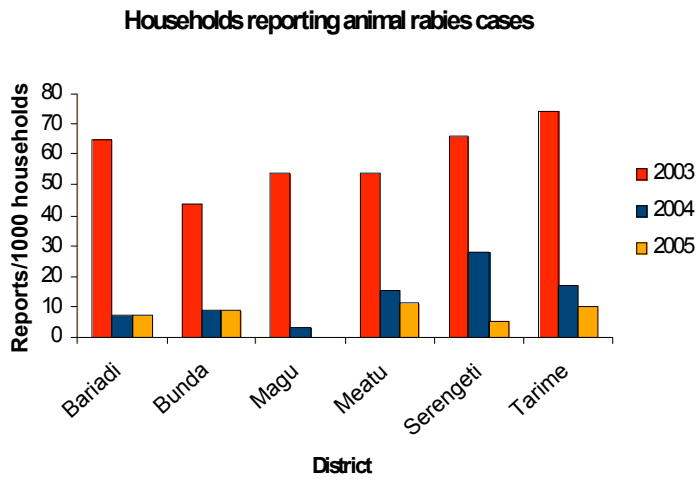
The good news about rabies is that the disease is totally preventable through prophylaxis for humans and a vaccination programme for domestic dogs.

Impact of dog vaccination

Already earlier vaccination campaigns in Mexico showed that by vaccinating domestic dogs the disease among humans can be controlled.



The vaccination program in Tanzania is showing similar results; by vaccinating the domestic dogs in controlled areas since 2003, the bite incidence by rabid animals is decreasing significantly:



World Rabies Day

September 8th 2007 is the first World Rabies Day. This event is an initiative of the Alliance for Rabies Control and the objective is to raise awareness and enhance prevention and control of the disease. Intervet is supporting the Alliance for Rabies Control and world wide our local organisations supported several activities during the World Rabies Day.

Intervet India and World Rabies Day

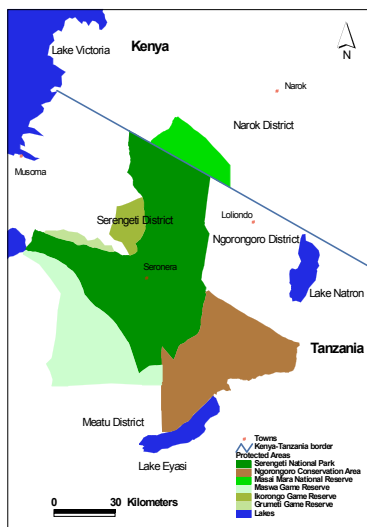
Embracing World Rabies Day on September 8th, 2007, Intervet India initiated impressive activities with the active support from colleagues and veterinarians of external organizations in and around Pune. The activities included presentations given on rabies prevention, reaching in total 5,000 children in rural areas/slums. Children were wearing head-caps bearing logo's of World Rabies Day and Intervet with a take home message "working together to make Rabies history".

By these initiatives more than 20,000 children and students and their families living in rural India including slums in semi-urban areas will be reached and educated on "Rabies Awareness" as part of our promotion of World Rabies Day.

Intervet India is supporting education programs for children at schools and several vaccination programs.

AFYA SERENGETI – They have waited a long time.....

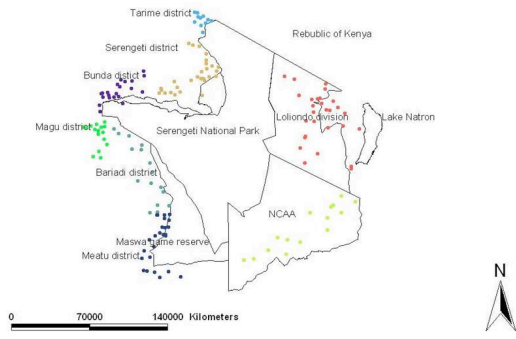
Rabies is widespread throughout Africa with more than 25,000 people dying from the disease each year. Helping to control the incidence of animal and human rabies in north-western Tanzania is a key focus for Intervet, through our ongoing support of the 'Afya Serengeti' (meaning health of Serengeti) project.



Run by epidemiologist, Dr Sarah Cleaveland from the Centre of Tropical Medicine at the University of Edinburgh in the UK, Intervet has donated 200,000 doses of our rabies vaccine to the Afya Serengeti project to help bring widespread canine vaccination to this famous nature reserve.

The canine vaccination programme is central to Afya Serengeti's activities and a vaccination zone has been set up around the park with regular clinics taking place to maintain the population of vaccinated dogs with a long-term aim of preventing and controlling rabies in dogs and humans alike.

Vaccination zone



Dog owners are invited to bring their dogs to be registered, vaccinated, marked with a plastic collar and given a certificate of vaccination. So far it has proved popular, with villagers often walking for miles with their dogs to ensure that their pets can be protected.

Additional data and blood samples are also collected at the clinics and household questionnaires are carried out to assess the attitude and awareness of vaccination.

They have waited a long time.....but now their dogs can be vaccinated.



Thank you!

“There are many problems confronting the world that we often feel powerless to prevent. But Rabies is not one of these. Prevention and elimination of rabies is entirely feasible, and together, as veterinarians working medical colleagues, we have the chance to make a difference. There is no excuse for any further delay.”

Dr. Sarah Cleaveland