

A person wearing a brown jacket and a grey scarf is petting a black and tan dog. The background is slightly blurred, showing a paved surface.

# Towards Zero by 30: Rabies Control in the Middle East

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17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1 to 5 October 2023



1. Global burden of Rabies
2. Rabies in the Middle east
3. Global strategy for Rabies
4. United Against Rabies Forum
5. WOAHA Support for Rabies
6. Dog population format
7. Next Steps

# Global Burden of Rabies

- 3.7 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost each year.
- Economic burden of 8.6 billion USD annually.
- 59,000 human deaths annually

## Zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030

 **59,000**  
**deaths**

Rabies is still responsible for approximately **59,000 human deaths every year**



That is **one person** every **nine minutes**



**Around 99%** of human rabies cases are due to bites from **infected dogs**

Yet we have all the tools available, including high-quality vaccines, to eliminate the disease and effectively prevent it.

# Rabies in the Middle east

## WOAH Regional Commission for the Middle East - 2015

In the 83rd General Session of the WOA, held in Paris in May 2015, the WOA Regional Commission for the Middle East adopted 'Control of rabies in the Middle East with emphasis on stray dog control'

At the same time, the [survey](#) on 'Control of rabies with emphasis on stray dog control' highlighted key concerns impeding the efforts for dog mediated rabies

- Increase in dog bite cases & post exposure prophylaxis
- Underreporting of rabies cases
- Lack of adequate resources for dog population management
- Few countries are conducting mass dog vaccinations

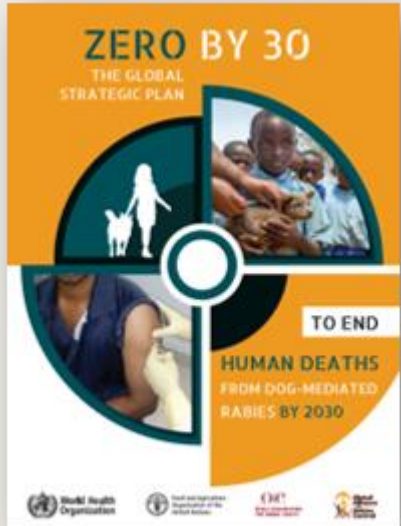


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# Zero by 30 – The Global strategy for Rabies



- Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030
- Established global goal and common plan
- Has country-centric, One Health approach



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# We are United Against Rabies.

## United Against Rabies Forum

- Established by FAO, WHO and WOAH in September 2020 to **implement 'Zero by 30'**
- An inclusive network of stakeholders from a range of sectors with a common vision to achieve **zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030**
- Engage with the rabies community through website, webinars, newsletters, social media, podcast
- Coordinate stakeholders to better **support countries** in implementation of rabies control
- [www.unitedagainstrabies.org](http://www.unitedagainstrabies.org)



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# Tools and Resources

Rabies – The Global Challenge

Rabies Roadmap and Resources

Events and Courses



- The Rabies Roadmap
- Resources**

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**1 every 9 minutes**

1 person dies from rabies every 9 minutes and almost half of them are children.

**99%**

Up to 99% of human rabies infections are caused by a bite from a rabid dog.



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## A generic template for developing a national strategic plan to eliminate dog-mediated rabies



The World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) have been supporting countries in the elimination of dog-mediated rabies. This collaborative effort aims to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030 or 2035.

## Minimum Data Elements for Monitoring and Evaluation of National and International Rabies Control Programs

Developed by United Against Rabies, Working Group 1

- Katie Hampson, United
- Fred Lutz, United Kingdom
- Thumbi Mwangi, Kenya
- Umme Ruman Siddiq, Bangladesh
- Naseem Salehuddin, Iraq
- Terence Scott, Luxembourg
- Eduardo Lindoraga, Mexico
- Ryan Wallace, United States



## Landscaping of Resource Partners for Rabies in [Country] – Template Version 1, September 2022



Photo credit: © WCAH



www.unitedagainstrabies.org

# Together, we can end all human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

Supported by FAO, WOAHA and WHO (the Tripartite), the United Against Rabies Forum takes a multi-sectoral, One Health approach bringing together governments, vaccine producers, researchers, NGOs and development partners.



Join the Community and share your stories

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Linked In](#)


[Instagram](#)

[Youtube](#)




Is your organization working on rabies control?  
**Will you join us?**

Membership of the United Against Rabies Forum is open to all organizations committed to rabies control and elimination and whose work or activities contribute to this goal.



© Tarryn Hatchett



**Voices for Change: the power of communication for rabies control**

Join this United Against Rabies webinar to learn more about rabies communication, and how this can help drive progress towards Zero by 30.

[Register here](#)



**Case Study: Namibia**  
Fighting rabies with a multisectoral One Health approach.

[View case study](#)



**Rabies Today**

Episode 3  
**Dogs, Dogs, Dogs!**

Image Credit: WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

[< News and Case Studies](#)

Rabies experts urge Gavi to implement PEP investment

**By:** United Against Rabies



# WOAH International Standards

Providing clear guidance, strategies, priorities and legal frameworks to prevent human deaths

## 1. Terrestrial Animal Health Code

- **Chapter 1.1** provides guidance on notification
- **Chapter 5.11** provides model veterinary certificate for international movement of dogs, cats and ferrets originating from rabies free countries
- **Chapter 7.7** provides guidance on management of free-roaming dogs and responsible dog ownership
- **Chapter 8.15** includes case definitions, guidance on recognition of rabies free countries or zones, surveillance recommendations, endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies

## 2. Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

- **Chapter 3.1.18** outlines diagnostic techniques for identification of rabies, guidance on sample collection and shipping, vaccine production requirements



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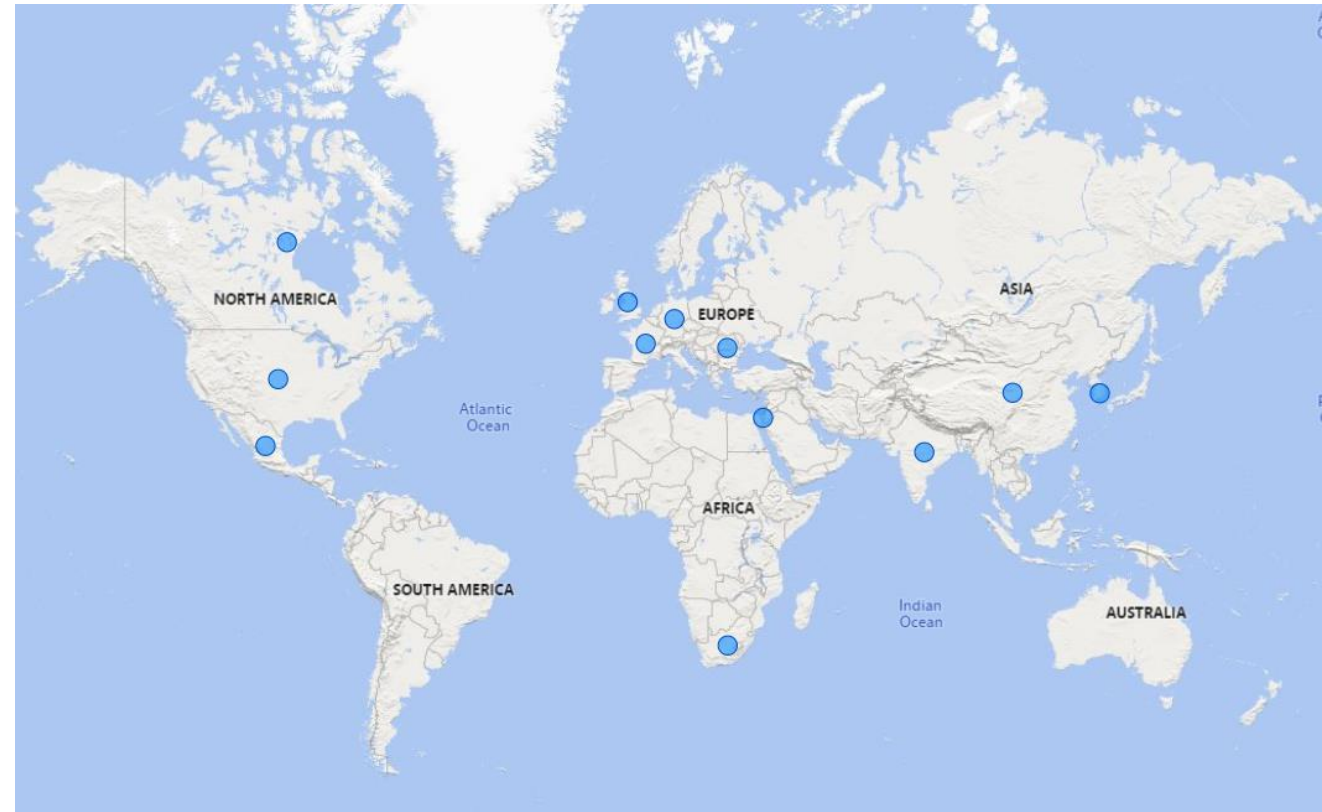
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# Technical Support

## Reference Laboratory Network for Rabies (RABLAB)

- Composed of **12 WOAH designated Reference Laboratories** from around the world.
- Help Members **improve** their **diagnostic capacity & surveillance**
- Development and **standardization of laboratory techniques**
- Coordination of **research** and **training activities**.



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# Rabies and the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)

WAHIS – Global data platform for official information on animal health

## Reporting to WAHIS for Rabies

- Rabies is priority zoonotic disease,
- It is 'listed' by WOAHA in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
- **Members are obliged to report** occurrence of rabies in domestic and wild animals to WOAHA through WAHIS.
- Notification is done by **Focal Points** under the responsibility of the Delegate.



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## Endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies

### Recognition

International recognition of the capacity of the Veterinary Services and other competent authorities in zoonotic disease control

### Expertise

Wider access to international expertise and capacity-building activities

### Engagement

Increased political and financial engagement of governments and investors in rabies elimination

## Benefits of endorsement

### Endorsed control programme also signifies:

Strong partnership with, and support of, national public health authorities in the control of zoonotic diseases

- Contribution to the **Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030**

- Commitment to the One Health approach through multi-sectoral collaboration

# Endorsement of official control programmes for dog-mediated rabies

- Important to **develop** National Strategic Plan
- **Template** for developing the NSP available on United Against Rabies Forum
- **Endorsement paves the way to self-declare freedom** from dog-mediated rabies
- Improved **access** to **international** and **national** resources and expertise
- **Links to the United Against Rabies Forum Roadmap**



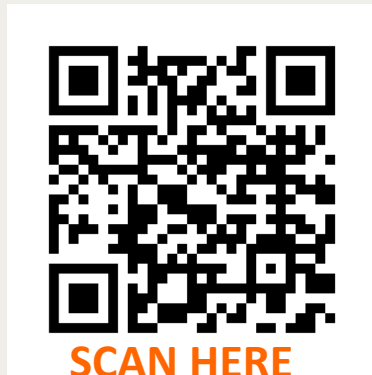
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# Communication Resources

- [WOAH Rabies infographic](#)
- [WOAH International poster](#)
- [WOAH vaccine bank infographic](#)
- [Endorsement of control programmes brochure](#)
- [Video on vaccination for the general public](#)
- [United Against Rabies](#)



Tollwut  
داء الكلب  
Rabies  
Rage  
Rabia  
রাইস  
Rabbia  
Haromotana  
Wścieklizna  
Raiva  
Бешенство  
พิษสุนัขบ้า  
Kuduz  
...

**RABIES**

Every 9 minutes, someone dies from rabies. Stop the disease.

[www.woah.org/rabies](http://www.woah.org/rabies)

## RABIES STILL KILLS

>59,000 people a year

1 person every 9 minutes

Mostly children

In 2/3 of the countries worldwide

AND YET, IT IS 100% PREVENTABLE!

99% human rabies cases originate from dog bites

**NO MORE DEATHS FROM RABIES! VACCINATE DOGS!**

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[www.woah.org/rabies](http://www.woah.org/rabies)

### Building a successful control programme for dog-mediated rabies

An official control programme is a long-term plan that is approved, then managed or supervised, by the Veterinary Authority of a Member with the aim of potentially eliminating a disease in a given country or territory.

Such a plan involves demonstrating that a country's Veterinary Authority and its competent authorities have effective capacities in line with International Standards. It includes the following measures:

- Vaccination campaigns:** to tackle the disease at its main animal source
- Effective management of free-roaming dogs:** in line with WOAH International Standards to reach an immune or rabies-free dog population while ensuring that animal welfare is respected
- Public awareness and education campaigns:** to improve the understanding of the risks related to rabies, as well as how to prevent them

**Reduction in deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030**

1,000 deaths

That is one person every nine minutes

Around 99% of human rabies cases are due to bites from infected dogs

By vaccinating at least 70% of dogs in at-risk areas, we can reduce human cases of rabies to zero

**Stop rabies: vaccinate dogs**  
#EndRabiesNow



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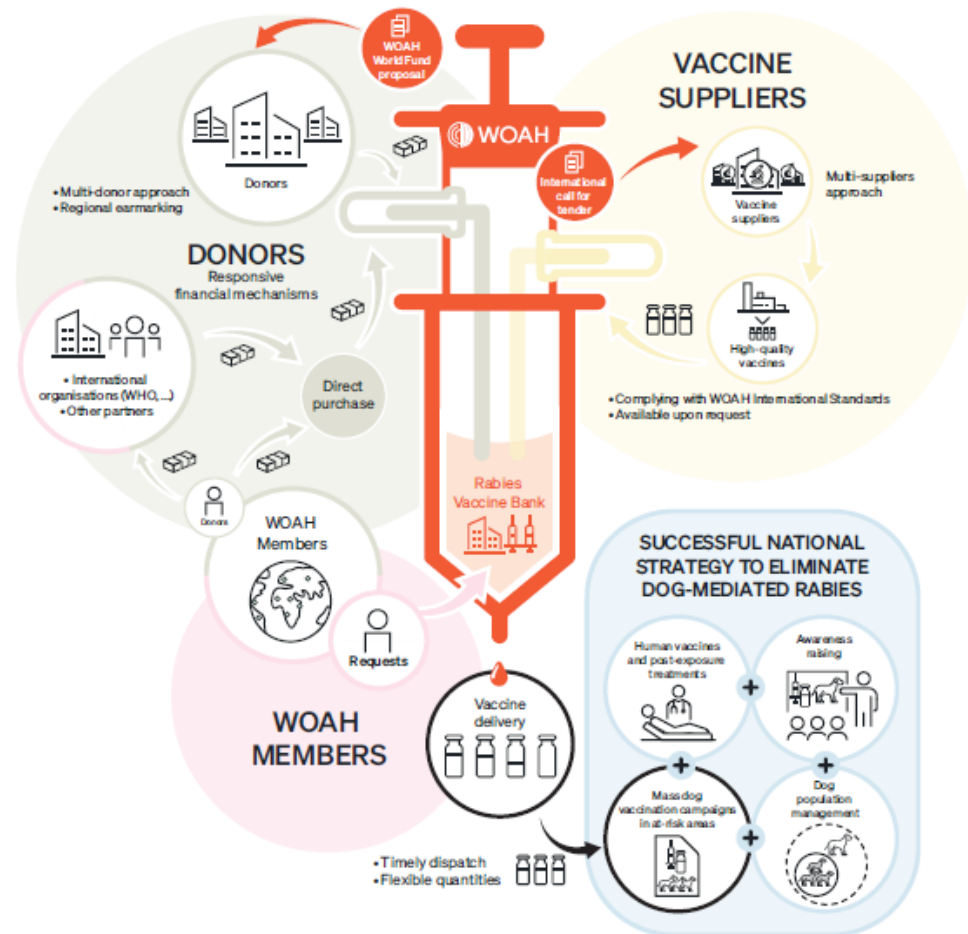
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# CANINE RABIES VACCINES TO SAVE HUMAN LIVES

**RABIES** kills nearly **59,000 PERSONS PER YEAR** with more than **99%** of cases originating from infected **DOG BITES**.

By providing high-quality dog vaccines, our vaccine bank helps countries implement vaccination campaigns and eliminate dog-mediated human rabies.



## WOAH Rabies Vaccines Bank

- Provides **high-quality dog vaccines** to help countries implement dog vaccination campaigns
- Pre-established **low, fixed price**
- Facilitates access to vaccines for rapid response to urgent requests
- Catalyst for countries to design and **implement national rabies elimination strategies**
- Countries must show strong political will and plan for implementing rabies control
- **Request must be submitted to WOAAH via the Chief Veterinary Officer**

# Capacity building and training

- WOAH Reference Laboratories for Rabies (RABLAB) for supporting surveillance and diagnosis
- Laboratory twinning programmes to improve laboratory capacity
- Technical in-country support
- Virtual national and regional training workshops
- Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway support:
- PVS Evaluation with Rabies Specific Content (**PVS+Rabies**) and National Bridging Workshop with Rabies-specific approach (**NBW+Rabies**)



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# Chapter 7.7 Dog Population Management

## Adopted at the 89th WOAHA General Session (23-27 May 2022)

- The **scope was redefined** to focus on the welfare of dogs when implementing DPM programmes
- The **objectives reworded and updated** to take into consideration the WOAHA activities around **dog-mediated human rabies**
- The **terminology was harmonised** to be consistent with other TAHC Chapters
- **New articles** were added and reorganised to address the **wider scope** (i.e., roles and responsibilities) and to ensure **most up-to-date guidance**



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# The new WOAHA standards on Dog Population Management (DPM)

The WOAHA TAHC Chapter 7.7 **Dog Population Management (DPM)** refers to the holistic approach that aims to improve the welfare of dogs, reduce problems they may present (free-roaming, attacks to humans and other animals, zoonotic diseases dissemination, environmental pollution, damage to properties, wildlife hybridization), and create harmonious co-existence with people and their environment.

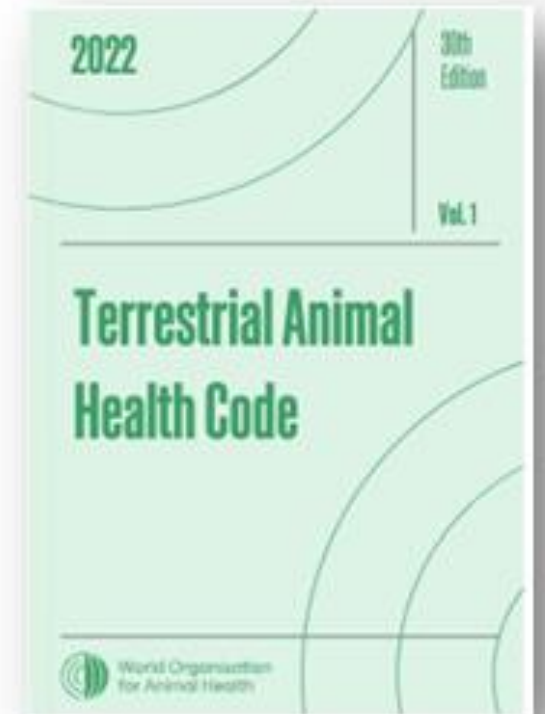
*A **FREE-ROAMING DOG** is "any owned or unowned dog that is without direct human supervision or control, including **feral dogs**"*



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WOAH Platform  
on animal welfare  
for Europe

Since 2014, **stray dog population control** a **priority topic** of the WOAHP Platform on Animal Welfare for Europe

- **Regional roadmaps launched to achieve compliance with WOAHP standards on stray dog population control by 2025 for the Balkans and by 2030 for West Eurasia in 11 Balkans and 8 West Eurasia countries**
- In 2019, other **4 Western European** (Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine) **Members** joined the initiative
- **Aligned** to the **Zero by 30 - Global Strategic Plan** to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030



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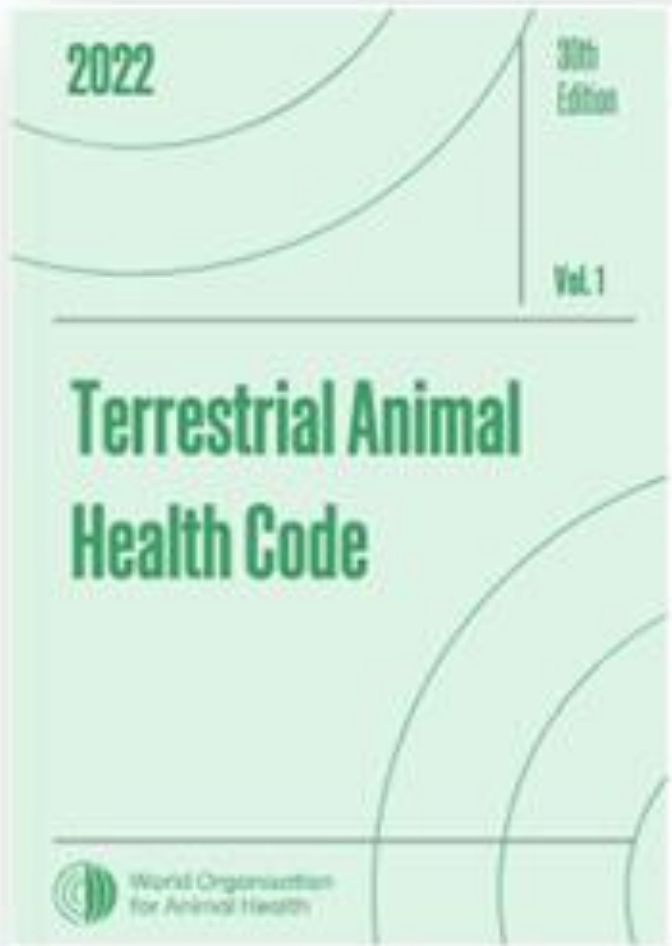
- **Control interventions should focus on root causes of the problem,**
- Sources of dogs need to be identified and addressed, rather than just focus on measures targeting the existing free-roaming dog population.
- Essential to develop a **medium to long-term (5 to 10 years), sustainable Dog Population Management strategy at country level**, based on **an actionable National Action Plan** for implementation of **tailor-made DPM**
- **DPM** to be constantly monitored and evaluated.
- Require a **systematic, comprehensive, coordinated and progressive approach** to curb and finally eliminate the presence of free-roaming dogs



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- **DPM has direct benefits to public health and safety, and to animal health and welfare.**
- Dogs are a domesticated species and therefore dependent on human communities, thus **there is an ethical responsibility** to ensure their health and welfare even in the absence of ownership.
- The **owned dog population is a common source of free-roaming dogs**, DPM programmes should consider all dogs.
- **Dog ecology is linked with human activities**, therefore DPM should be accompanied by changes in human behaviour, including **promotion of responsible ownership**.
- **Local dog population dynamics and community attitudes is a key element** in determining whether and how DPM. programmes might contribute to rabies control and which tools would be most successful.
- Sources and drivers of free-roaming dogs and management goals differ across communities, **DPM programmes should be individually tailored to local and national contexts**, and they should be designed to be sustainable, aligned with legislative requirements, evaluated and adaptable.



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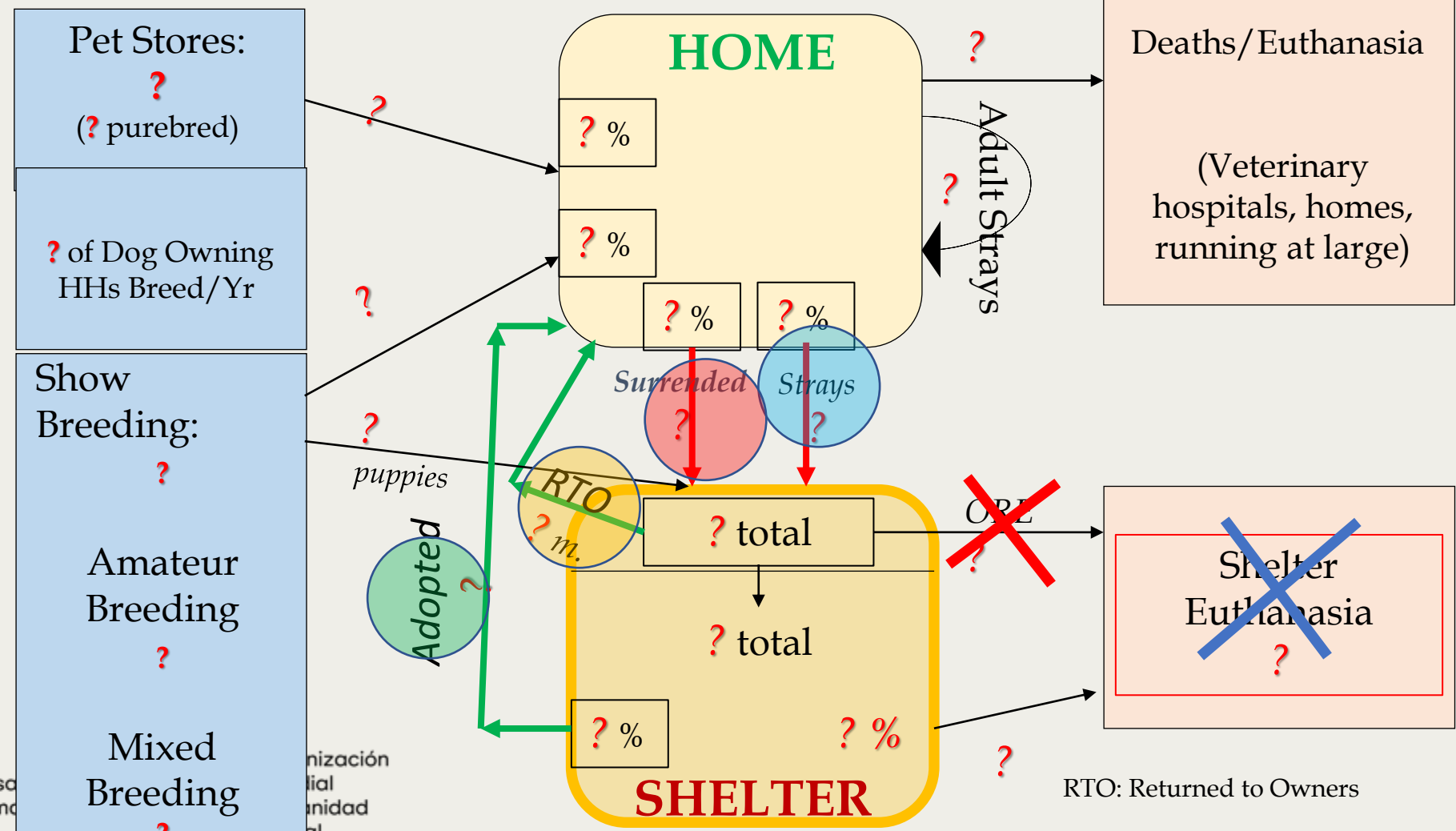


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Anthrozoos, 1995 (Patronek & Rowan)

RTO: Returned to Owners  
ORE: Owner Requested Euthanasia



WOAH Platform  
on animal welfare  
for Europe



Self assessment and monitoring tools

Workshops, training and tailor-made assistance



**World Organisation for Animal Health**  
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**Report of the WOAHP mission to the KINGDOM of BAHRAIN**  
Date : 7-9 March, 2023

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**DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT IN THE KINGDOM BAHRAIN**

**BACKGROUND**

On February the 13<sup>th</sup>, the WOAHP Sub-Regional Representative of Abu Dhabi Dr. Mohamed Alhusaini has been contacted by the Delegate of Bahrain Dr. Fajal Sabah Al Saloom seeking technical assistance to support the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture in addressing the issues posed by the growing numbers of free-roaming dogs in the country. Dr. Pablo Dalda VDB, Technical Officer - Disaster Management and Animal Welfare at the WOAHP Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels was therefore asked to plan an onsite visit in order to assess the current situation and advice on how to progress on dog population management and free-roaming dog control.

Since 2014, the Self-Assessment and Monitor Tool (SAM Tool 1.0) has been successfully adopted by several WOAHP Members in order to understand their national situation, progressively monitor the level of compliance with the WOAHP standards, and address the problem of free-roaming dogs at national level. An updated version of the SAM Tool 1.0 (SAM Tool 2.0) questionnaire (already used in the Balkans, Western Eurasia and North Africa) to self-assess the level of compliance with the WOAHP SAMC Chap. 7.2 standards and a survey specially prepared to gather additional information on dog population management approach in Bahrain were sent to the WOAHP Delegate. Instructions for completion of these two survey forms were shared. In preparation to the visit and discussed with the WOAHP Delegate Dr Fajal Sabah Al Saloom, Dr Ebrahim Yusuf Ahmed and Dr Abbas Abdulla from the Control & Animal Health Department during an online preparatory meeting on February the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Following a preliminary assessment of the responses received, a more in-depth fact-finding missions took place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of March according to the attached agenda (Annex 1).

<sup>1</sup> According to the WOAHP Glossary, a FREE ROAMING DOG is "any owned dog or unowned dog that is without direct human supervision or control, including street dogs".

**BE HIS HERO**

Poster  
Press release  
Radio capsules  
Dog owner leaflet  
Dog owner survey  
Presentation for teachers  
Sticker with a logo for kids  
Play book for kids  
Facebook pages  
Webbanners

Public awareness and education campaign



# WOAH Self-Assessment and Monitoring Tool (SAM Tool 2.0)

initially developed in 2015 in the form of electronic survey and reviewed in 2017 with a new section on rabies based on Chapter 8.15

To **facilitate** the implementation of the TAHC Chap.7.7 on dog population management and **empower** Veterinary Services

- ✓ to set a **baseline** on the national dog population management and free roaming dog control at national level;
- ✓ to **measure compliance progress** overtime;
- ✓ to conduct a series of **capacity building activities**, with a focus on both the welfare of dogs as well as public health aspects, including the rabies dimension;
- ✓ to **identify possible gaps** in the capacities to implement TAHC Chap.7.7 measures.



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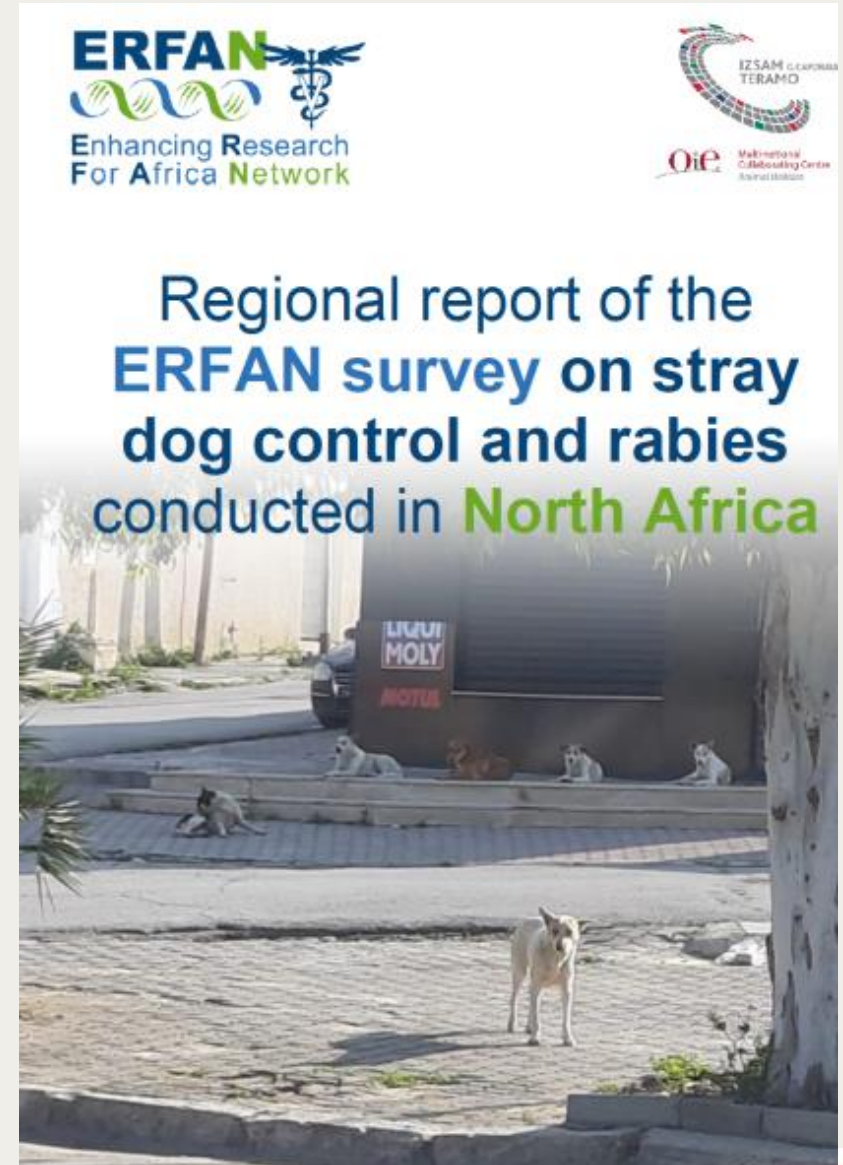
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**SAM**  
s y s t e m  
**4DPM**

Self-Assessment and Monitoring System  
for Dog Population Management

**Survey by WOAHA Offices in Tunis and Brussels as well as the IZSAM/WOAH collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Teramo under the framework of REMESA.**

Information and data provided by the report help establishing a **baseline on stray dog and rabies situation in the targeted countries**, against which, progresses might be assessed in the coming years.



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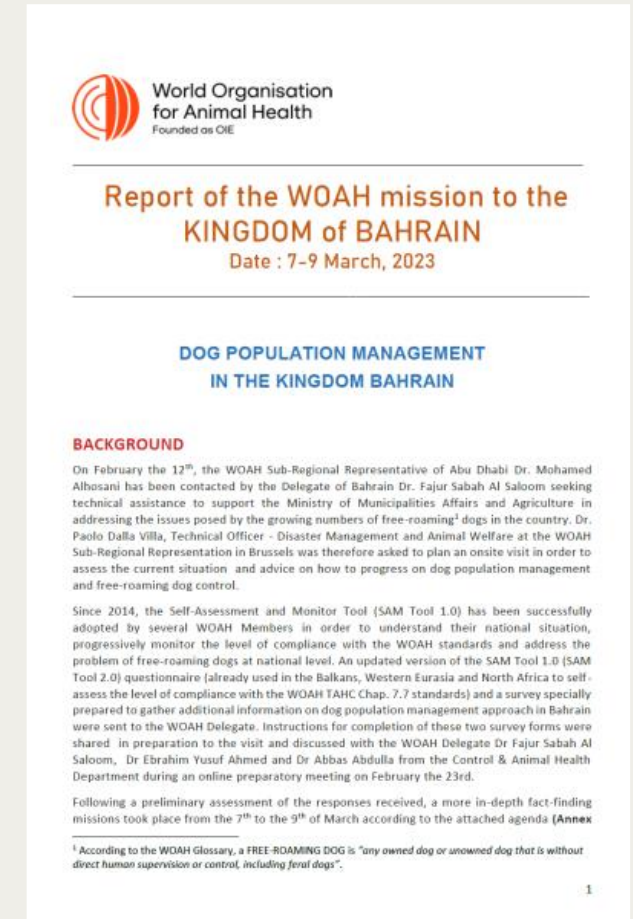
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Evidences from **Kingdom of Bahrein in 2023**, a **Dog Population Management programme** should include the combination of the following measures:

- To implement a **system for mandatory identification and registration of owned and un-owned dogs** in a centralized database;
- To enhance the impact of the current CNR approach by **launching a mass sterilization program for free-roaming dogs**;
- To **establish a rehoming centre for abandoned animals** in accordance with standards set by the national legislative framework;
- To create a **foster network of dedicated volunteers to take abandoned dogs into their homes temporarily**;
- To **strengthen environmental controls by removing access to resources in specific areas**.



The availability of data on the dog population size, dynamic and trends remain essential to set clear intervention objectives and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the DPM programmes

- Effective and enforced legislation.
- Clear definitions of roles - It is extremely important to insist on a clear definition of competencies between and within certain levels of government (Central and Local) in supervising the implementation of laws and bylaws, especially with regard to ownership responsibility in the identification and registration of owned and unowned dogs.
- A successful and efficient implementation requires the involvement of more than one agency and stakeholder; and in turn is dependent upon the willingness of Competent Authorities and governmental agencies, local municipalities, Veterinary Services and the civil society to work together in a cohesive and consistent manner.



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# Recommendations

- Engage with WOAHA and other rabies stakeholders to support national rabies control efforts.
- Use exiting guidelines and resources available
- Establish dog population management programs in line with WOAHA Terrestrial code Chapter 7.7
- Mass dog vaccination is critical element elimination of dog mediated Rabies
- Development and implementation of country specific national strategic plan
- Identifying national point of contact for rabies



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# Thank you

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