



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Protecting animals, preserving our future

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OIE Webinar World Wildlife Day

Global wildlife health

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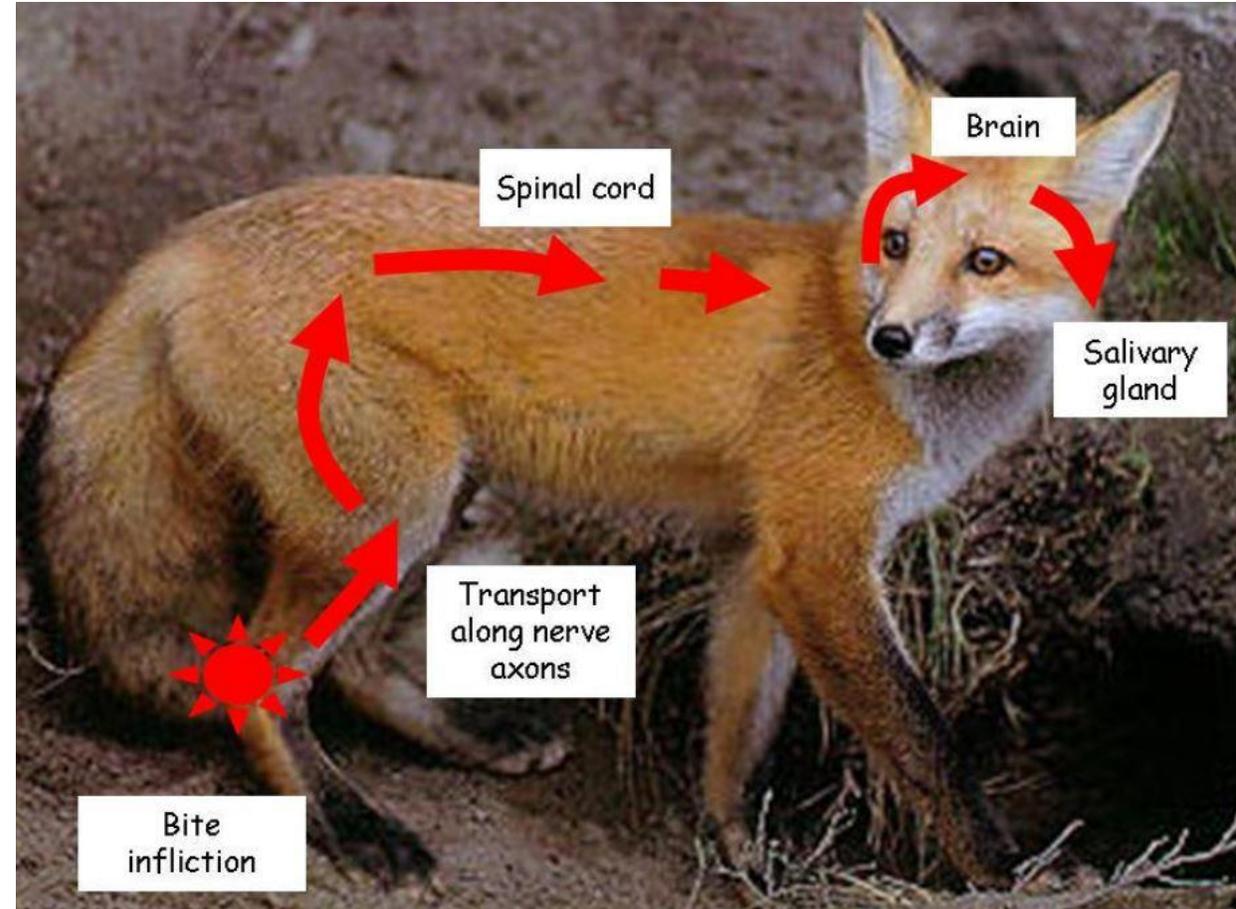
Rabies in wildlife in Europe (example of the Republic of Moldova)

Wildlife health globe-trotting



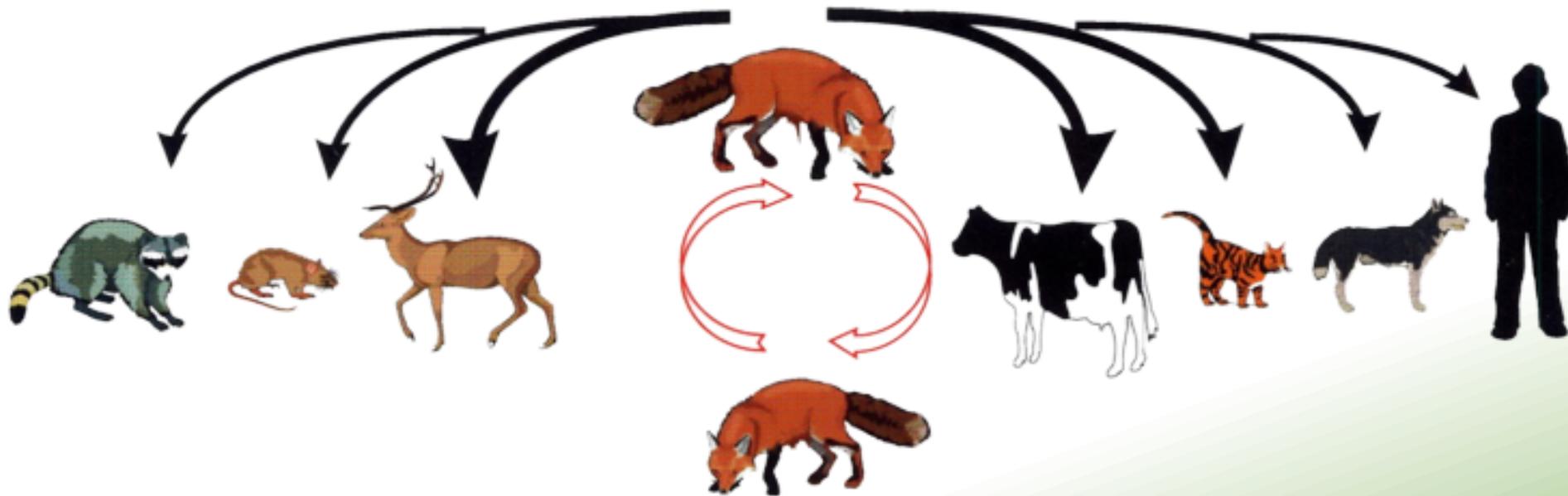
Rabies in wildlife in the world

- Rabies is a viral origin zoonosis which has the highest lethality rate in both animals and humans infected with the rabies virus.
- Notifications of the incidence of disease annually come from more than 150 countries around the world, and the number of deaths due to rabies is over 50,000 people annually.
- At the same time, the number of people vaccinated due to bites caused by sick or suspected animals infected with rabies virus exceeds 15 millions of persons every year.
- The main reservoir of the rabies virus in the Europe region is red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*).
- Another important source of the disease as well as a potential reservoir of the virus represent the stray dogs in urban areas that bite humans and various species of animals.
- Given the important social and economic impact of rabies, the disease is constantly monitored by the veterinary service and is being included in the plan of strategic veterinary sanitary measures.

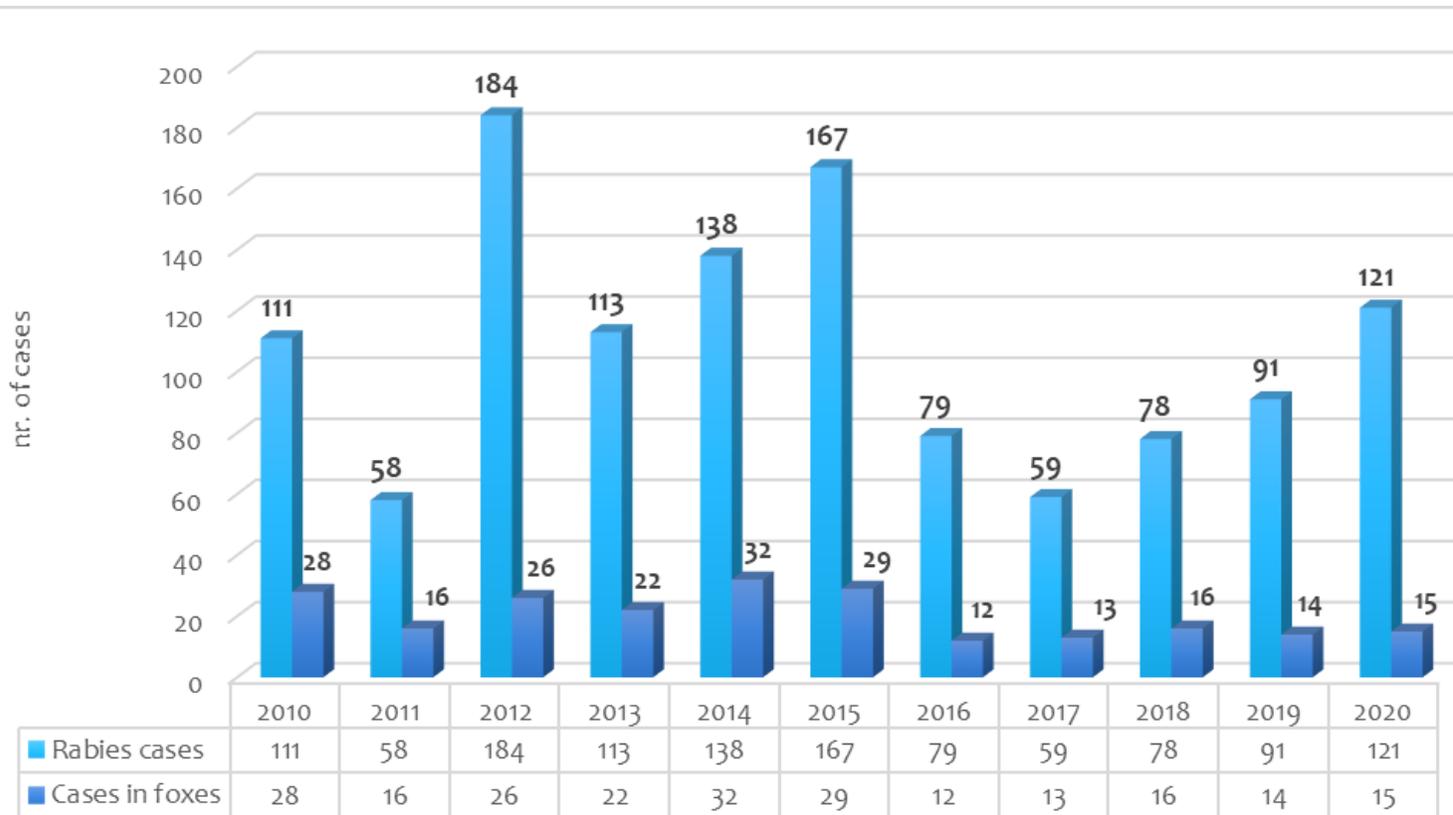


Situation : an example of the Republic of Moldova

- From 1952 to the present (results of the official registration), rabies remains an endemic zoonosis in the territory of the Republic of Moldova with a different incidence of disease, having a higher frequency in wild animals, mainly represented by the red fox.



Situation : an example of the Republic of Moldova

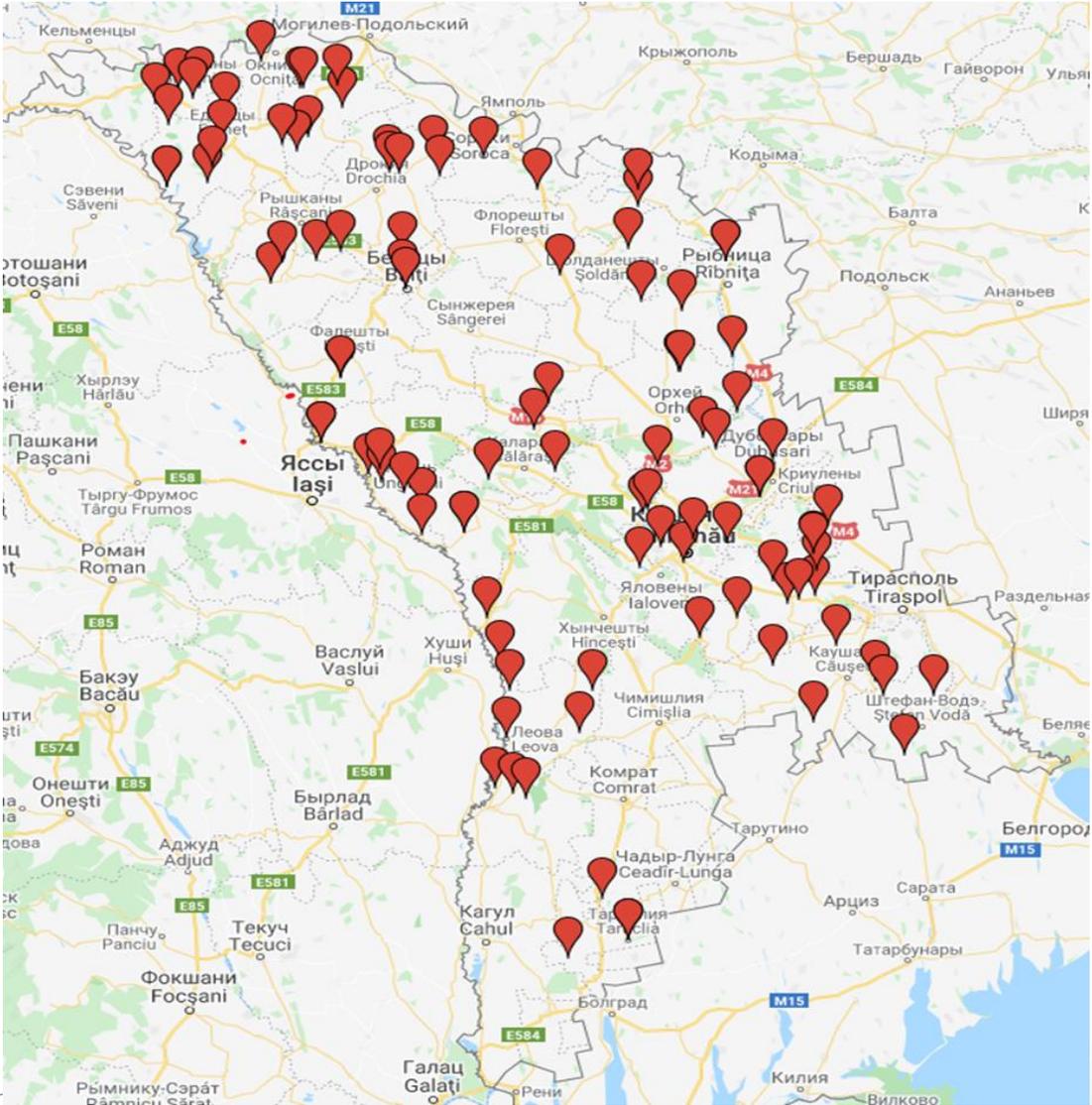


Analyzing these data we see that the number of rabies cases in foxes out of the total number of rabies cases in animals was fluctuating over the period; ranging from 14 cases which represent 15.4 % of the total number of 91 cases in 2019 to 32 cases which represent 23.2% of the total number of 138 cases in 2014.

The highest peak of rabies cases in foxes was recorded in the years 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2015, constituting respectively 28, 26, 32 and 29 cases.



Ecosystem health & biodiversity : an example of the Republic of Moldova



The quantity of red foxes in the territory of Republic of Moldova is other than 7 - 10 times from the norm.

Analyzing the geographical spread of rabies on the territory of the Republic of Moldova it can be seen that outbreaks of rabies are widespread in all geographical areas of the republic. However, an increased concentration of cases can be seen in the northern and central part of the republic where the surface of forest strips is higher; consequently, allowing the vector of infection to have a longer period of survival.

- Rabies case in human
- 2003 Drochia district - the bite caused by a marten
- 2016 Causeni district - the bite caused by a dog
- 2019 Chisinau mun. - the bite caused by a dog

At the same time, at the anti-rabies offices in the Republic of Moldova, less than 2,000 people that had contact with suspected or suffering from rabies animals, or were bitten by stray dogs, cats, wild animals or rodents were vaccinated.

Solutions

VACCINATION!!!!

INFORMATION!!!

- In 2020 was launched the bilateral program Republic of Moldova-Romania, which aimed to vaccinate wildlife animals against rabies by the combined method, manually and by plane.
- Cartography dogs and cats from rural localities and receptive animals from the forest environment.
- Identify and confirm cases of rabies through laboratory testing and detecting the disease origins.
- Provide permanent control of the health status of domestic and wild receptive animals.
- Reduce the number of animals with high potential of infection and prevent the spread of the disease in rabbinic areas through the application of specific measures.
- Perform the rabies vaccination of domestic carnivores and foxes in forest areas



Shared lessons

- **VACCINATION!!!**
- **INFORMATION!!!**
- The epidemiological study established a dragging evolution of animal rabies cases in the Europe Region with an incidence of disease cases ranging from 1 to 1000 cases per year, being characterized by successive waves of increase in the number of sick animals with a periodicity of 2 to 3 years.
- The most frequent cases of the disease in Europe Region were registered in red foxes, which are also considered the main vector of disease spread.
- The reduction of rabies in animals and the maintenance of the epidemiological situation against rabies can be achieved by the systematic immunization of carnivores, as well as red foxes from all territories of the country by combined method (manually and by plane).



Thank you for your attention



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