

FINAL REPORT REDIPRA 15



15th MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR RABIES CONTROL IN THE AMERICAS
Brasilia, Brazil, September 16-17, 2015



PANAFTOSA
Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center
Veterinary Public Health

15th MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR RABIES CONTROL IN THE AMERICAS - REDIPRA 15

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FINAL REPORT

OPENING CEREMONY

Chaired by Dr. Eliane Fátima de Sena, Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil, Dr. Alexandre Fonseca Santos, Chief of Staff, Secretary of Health Surveillance, Ministry of Health of Brazil, and Dr. Ottorino Cosivi, Director of the Pan American Center of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, PANAFTOSA – PAHO/WHO, the session starts.

Speakers welcome and thank the participants, and give a brief account of REDIPRA's background, the achievements and challenges of the control of dog-mediated rabies in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the pending work for rabies control transmitted by hematophagous bats. They wish the greatest success to the meeting, and express their expectation that the agreements made can reach the final phase for the elimination of this disease that affects the public health and the economy of the Region. They report that PAHO/WHO Director, Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, is attentive to the development and report of the Meeting.

The opening ceremony is attended by delegates responsible of national programs for rabies control in the Ministries of Health and Agriculture of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as representatives of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and the World Animal Protection (WAP) Society, directors of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centers, the University of São Paulo – (USP), immunobiologicals manufacturing companies and institutions related to the Pan American Health Office (PAHO) in the technical cooperation for the control of rabies and other zoonoses

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEETING

Apertura

By unanimous vote, Dr. Eduardo Caldas, Delegate of the Ministry of Health of Brazil, was appointed Chairman, and Dr. Ramona Davalos and Dr. MVS. Luis Rodolfo Sandoval Cámbara, delegates of the Ministries of Agriculture of Paraguay and of Public Health and Social Welfare of Guatemala, respectively, were appointed rapporteurs. The Agenda of the Meeting, attached herein, is submitted to consideration, and approved without any modification

PLENARY SESSIONS

SESSION 1: REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

The session begins by introducing the 49th Resolution of PAHO/WHO Directing Council, which commits the countries of the Americas to eliminate neglected diseases and other poverty-related infections, such as rabies, by the year 2015. Within this context, the progress attained in rabies elimination in most countries of the Region is highlighted, where no human or canine cases have been reported in the last few years, a favorable situation compared to other regions and countries of the world. This fact poses the particular threat of turning the countries “victims of their own success” since, under these circumstances, political interest and institutional visibility are reduced and the population’s lack of knowledge about the risk of rabies is increased. Besides, PANAFTOSA technical cooperation responds to the 8 goals of the Regional Plan for the Elimination of Rabies and, within this framework, regional meetings have been developed, as well as epidemiological alerts, surveillance models, a systematic review of interventions for rabies control transmitted by wild bats, the promotion of the 5 keys for the control of dog bites, the strategic integration of immunobiologicals into the EPI/PAHO program, the direct technical assistance to Guatemala, Haiti, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil and Cuba, and the follow-up and coordination of the 5 working groups appointed at the REDIPRA 14, which are presented below.

REPORT OF REDIPRA 14 WORKING GROUPS

WG 1- On the elimination of dog rabies, with emphasis on priority countries

The Group held virtual meetings for the exchange and dissemination of bibliography and experiences available in the countries about sampling and opinion surveys to estimate canine population in city centers. Virtual repositories on information standardization and updated evaluation tools were elaborated.

WG 2- On the declaration of countries or areas free from dog-mediated human rabies

The Group has been in permanent virtual contact for reviewing documents and requesting information to the countries on experiences related to the declaration and monitoring of rabies-free countries and areas. Based on the information gathered, the model has been reviewed and improved for the declaration of rabies-free countries and areas, with an emphasis on the definition of outcome indicators and processes, particularly those related to the permanent surveillance and monitoring of rabies, to be submitted in this Meeting.

WG 3- On wild rabies: strategic prevention guidelines

Working groups were set up to apply Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) schedules in Peru and Colombia, based on the experiences developed in at-risk population groups of the Peruvian and Colombian Amazon and the Pacific coast of Colombia. The report of experiences developed in the two countries is under development. The possibility of incorporating Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis to the EPI vaccination schedule is under study.

WG 4 - On rabies of herbivores: strengthening of national programs

The survey form to collect information on rabies of herbivores in the countries of the Region has been prepared. Together with the Ministry of Agriculture of Brazil, the meeting of the national program for the control of rabies of herbivores has been held. Jointly with AGROCALIDAD, in Ecuador, the control of hematophagous bats and epidemiological surveillance have been reinforced. Paraguay has promoted the cooperation agreement with PANAFTOSA, targeted at the training of human resources and the strengthening of the national program.

GT5 – On vaccines/immunobiologicals supply and diagnosis

Human and animal rabies vaccines were incorporated to the EPI/PAHO Revolving Fund in order to ensure the supply of immunobiologicals required by the countries; national programs were suggested to incorporate human and animal rabies vaccines to international quality standards. Regarding rabies diagnosis, the proficiency test was performed with the participation of 23 agricultural and health laboratories of the countries of the Region. This was a successful experience that enhanced the commitment of laboratory technical and professional staff.

Discussion

The issue of immunobiologicals and laboratory inputs is emphasized: the timely delivery of annual requests of rabies vaccines and sera to the EPI revolving fund; the inter-country collaboration for rabies vaccine supply in emergency situations; the use of alternative rabies vaccination schedules in humans, using reduced doses or intradermal administration; the pre-exposure vaccination in at-risk populations; that REDILAR, together with WHO collaborating centers, should guarantee the supply of WHO and promote their production in reference laboratories of the Network. A report is given about the validity, in some countries, of regulations for the management of rabies vaccines, compulsory for both the public and the private sectors, with the same schedule used for EPI biologicals. Methodological availability and country experiences on methodologies to estimate dog population in urban areas is verified. The importance and usefulness of the Working Groups set up at REDIPRA 14 is highlighted and it is suggested that similar groups should be established to address other issues of common concern, such as management of dog populations and management of zoonosis control centers, among others. International cooperation agencies and NGOs attending the meeting express their will to continue offering their collaboration

SESSION 2: SITUATION OF RABIES PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS

Epidemiological situation of rabies in the Americas: what is still needed to attain the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies?

Discussions are held on the importance of information for a correct perspective and appraisal of reality; it is acknowledged that SIRVERA is the source of data that allows to know where we are (cases), why (risk and vulnerability) and how to attain what is missing (information). The decreasing trend of cases of dog-mediated human rabies is presented and analyzed, as well as that of dog rabies in the Region for the 1982-2013 period; a graph is displayed on the trend of cases and the incidence in humans and dogs by sub-regions of Central America (Cuba, Haiti and Dominican Republic), South America and North America (Mexico). Estimates of the human/dog relation and dog population by sub-regions are discussed.

Report on the Pre-REDIPRA 15 survey conducted in the countries: Situation of national rabies programs.

Despite limited or missing data for the 2006-2007 period, the importance of the information obtained from the survey indicating that an estimate of 40-50 million dogs are immunized per year in the Region of the Americas is highlighted; the coverage varies between countries, but, where the vaccine is compulsory, it ranges between 50 and 97% for the 2013 - 2014 period; the investment for the purchase of rabies vaccines for dogs was around US\$ 59 million; US\$ 66 million were spent for human rabies vaccines and 7 million for immunoglobulins in 2013. The large number of people attacked by dogs in the countries and the Region is discussed and it is suggested that the

concept of “attack” should be reviewed to improve data recording. Information is given about the sending of samples for laboratory diagnosis, diagnostic techniques used and the number of countries with capacity to perform antigenic and genetic characterization of viruses. Finally, some variables about institutional capacities of national programs are presented.

Discussion

Delegates identify and commit to overcome the information limitations stated, and ratify the obligation to send information to the SIRVERA; PANAFTOSA admits the need to improve feedback mechanisms and informs that the new version, which is about to be implemented, addresses this requirement as well as the information entry formal mechanisms that is up to the Ministries of Health and Agriculture of the countries. They also emphasize the need to align the information systems of agencies (PAHO/WHO-OIE-FAO) and other international cooperation entities (GARC).

SESSION 3: ON THE INFORMATION ABOUT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE OF RABIES IN THE AMERICAS

Current situation of epidemiological information flow between the countries and PANAFTOSA

Information is provided on PANAFTOSA institutional profile, cooperation mandates developed in regional meetings of the Ministers of Health and Agriculture (RIMSA), PAHO/WHO Directing Council and REDIPRA regarding control of rabies and other zoonoses that, in the public health-animal health relationship, demand the integration of PAHO/WHO and OIE technical cooperation, particularly in terms of epidemiological surveillance, since it is the base for planning and managing animal health programs. Within this context, the role of the Continental Epidemiological Surveillance System (SIVCONT) in the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease is highlighted. The participants discussed about the use of the data reported by the countries to WAHID - OIE, SIVCONT and SIRVERA; reports on the occurrence of rabies in dogs and cattle are analyzed, and future implementation of the new SIRVERA is announced.

Notification system and status in the countries to the OIE

National notification to the OIE about the occurrence of zoonoses is based on the list of notifiable diseases of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, which includes 117 diseases, reported by 195 countries interconnected to the World Animal Health Information System – WAHIS. Data about animal rabies in the Americas are presented, as well as notifications of rabies in dogs, cats, herbivores and wild animals, by country, for the 2010-2014 period.

SIRVERA: Adding value with visualization and mapping of data on rabies

Historical data are presented and the importance of SIRVERA is pointed out, particularly regarding the control stage of endemic dog rabies in the countries and regions of the Americas. Warning is given on the challenges to improve the final stage of elimination, with emphasis on epidemiological surveillance aspects, according to REDIPRA 14 recommendations, based on which PANAFTOSA has developed a new format for the SIRVERA, to be implemented by December 2015, which offers new interactive tools that will enable System users to input and analyze data.

Discussion

The delegates acknowledge the importance of information systems for rabies and other zoonoses managed by different international cooperation organisms and restate their commitment to continue participating. They suggest system articulation should be improved and express their expectations about the new SIRVERA.

SESSION 4: ENDEMIC AREAS OF DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN RABIES

Introduction: Key challenges, inter-country cooperation and international technical cooperation actions.

The epidemiological setting of residual endemicity of dog and human rabies in priority countries and areas of the Region, the current importance and validity of bi- and multi-national animal health agreements with border countries, and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO technical cooperation challenges in coordination with other agencies of international cooperation organisms are described.

Se configura el panorama epidemiológico de endemismo residual de rabia canina y humana en países y áreas prioritarias de la región, la importancia y vigencia actual de los convenios zosanitarios de frontera bi- y multi-nacionales en este ámbito, los desafíos de la cooperación técnica de PANAFTOSA-OPS/OMS, en coordinación con otras agencias de organismos internacionales de cooperación.

ROUND TABLE: Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru and Dominican Republic.

The representatives of the programs indicate the persistence of some institutional and funding limitations for the continuing execution of critical prevention and control activities, such as systematic and high-coverage rabies vaccination for dogs in at-risk areas such as bi-national (Brazil-Bolivia, Peru-Bolivia) or multinational (Honduras-Guatemala-Mexico) borders, worsened by persistent viral circulation associated with the increase and flow of stray dogs; within this field, the importance of strengthening border (Bolivia-Peru; Haiti-Dominican Republic) animal health agreements is highlighted, as well as the availability of bi-national contingency plans for the control and elimination of rabies. Warning is given about the need to ensure the availability of rabies vaccines and sera, particularly for post-exposure prophylaxis, to address health emergency situations. In this regard, inter-country cooperation experiences of immunobiologicals supply, such as that of Brazil-Haiti, are acknowledged and highlighted. Attention is drawn towards the role of epidemiological surveillance, reporting/management of suspected cases, laboratory diagnosis and viral sequencing techniques of human and dog cases in order to detect wild animal sources of infection. The problem represented by the mongoose in Cuba is pointed out: 85% of dog rabies is caused by this animal; besides, the need to promote studies on oral vaccination in these and other wild animals is also mentioned.

Discussion

Several interventions complement and support the topics discussed. They agree on the importance given to the joint collaborative work between regional rabies control programs tending to consolidate efforts for rabies elimination in priority areas and countries. The importance of contingency, risk communication and information dissemination programs in a joint effort with the organized community and animal welfare NGOs is acknowledged.

SESSION 5: DECLARATION OF COUNTRIES OR AREAS FREE FROM DOG-MEDIATED RABIES

Introduction: Report on the conclusions of the Pre-REDIPRA seminar. Stages to declare an area free from rabies.

It is reported that the Seminar conclusions will be submitted for review and analysis to the Working Group 2, Session 10 of the Agenda, in relation to the declaration of countries and areas free from dog-mediated human rabies, for further consideration of REDIPRA delegates. The Round Table participants are suggested to consider whether it is suitable to proceed to define the global elimination target, based on the review and definition of national program goals.

ROUND TABLE: Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay and Nicaragua

Country delegates ratify the relevance of a gradual declaration of dog rabies-free countries and areas, according to the institutional interest and epidemiological situation of each country. In this sense, the situation of rabies in neighboring countries and international border areas becomes a risk referent to be considered for the definition of regional and national targets. Within this context, it is accepted that the strengthening of national capacities to contain cross-border diseases, to manage emergency situations, and for the timely notification/response to cases, is favored by the application of the International Health Regulations. It is restated, within this regional scenario, that the joint, collaborative, and supportive work between countries is necessary to reinforce actions for rabies prevention and control in priority countries and areas of the Region. PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO is requested to have a bank of professionals to address collaboration requirements of the countries of the Region.

Discussion

Speeches of round table participants about the relevance of the declaration of countries and areas free from dog-mediated human rabies are complemented and supported, on the premise of the availability and performance of an epidemiological surveillance system to monitor the lack of virus circulation in the countries. The relevance and the need of supportive and collaborative work in priority areas and countries are restated. It is suggested that initiatives for rabies elimination should be submitted to sub-regional political instances such as the MERCOSUR and the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), among others.

SESSION 6: ADVANCES IN SURVEILLANCE, PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF WILD RABIES

Advances in Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

The experience of the Peruvian Amazon

The characteristics of the Peruvian Amazon population, susceptible to wild rabies, are described. It is reported that, until 2011, control actions relied on the identification of people bitten by bats, the application of post-exposure prophylaxis with CRL immunization, the use of mosquito nets, and household protection. As of 2011, the Ministry of Health starts using a new strategy based on the application of pre-exposure prophylaxis schedules in at-risk populations using cell-culture vaccines. During the 2011-2014 period, 90,877 people have been vaccinated. The impact of the strategy translates into the decrease of human rabies cases: from 20 cases recorded in 2011 to 1 case in 2013, and to zero cases as of September 2015.

The experience of Colombia

The cycles of urban and wild rabies in Colombia are presented, the latter in hematophagous and non-hematophagous bats, cats being, in several cases, the intermediate host in the transmission chain to humans. The occurrence of human rabies transmitted by wild animals, accounting for 58% of cases recorded during the 1999-2012 period, is described, as well as pre-exposure schedule application strategy in occupationally exposed personnel and disperse and hard-to-reach populations in areas of virus circulation and reports of wild animal attacks in Amazon departments and the Pacific coast of Colombia, where a total of 7,635 individuals could be immunized, accounting for 71% of at-risk populations (10,867). Other challenges such as the design of immunological response protocols, the assessment of immunization in disperse communities and a cost/effectiveness study of the schedule for the inclusion in EPI are still pending.

Surveillance of rabies in wild animals

The experience of Mexico

It is stated that the main reservoirs of wild rabies in the country are bats, skunks and foxes, and that 8.2% of total attacks by animals suspected of rabies are caused by wild animals. In addition, a report is given on 47 cases of human rabies recorded in the 2000-2015 period, 42 (89%) of which have been mostly caused by hematophagous bats. Some conclusions are shared on the sensitivity of the surveillance system and the need to reinforce learning and information dissemination actions, among others.

The experience of Chile

A summary of the program background and the situation of rabies in the country is provided. The strategies for wild rabies control, based on the national surveillance network, the capacity of diagnostic laboratories, the activities of community learning and intersectoral health-agriculture-environment coordination are presented, together with bat control measures based on situational diagnosis, definition of operational options, available resources, feasibility and epidemiological risk. Examples are given of structures used by bats, main entry routes and biological control based on the use of predators. Finally, surveillance results are specified as well as the risks of occurrence associated with the origin of the samples, and the risk of transmission to humans and animals.

The experience of the French Guyana

An account is given of the research and chronology of a recent case of rabies in a six-month dog. After diagnosis and viral isolation and characterization, variant 3 of the hematophagous bat is identified as the source of infection. Case research reveals that 18 persons (15 under treatment) and 3 animals (2 cats and 1 possum sacrificed) have been in contact with the case. The timeline of events was explained, as well as the actions taken both at local and central levels, which included research, definition of the restricted area, communication and information, and exploration of other risk areas.

Research Report – The experience in the USA (CDC)

A graphical explanation is given of the increasing trend of rabies cases in wild animals and the low occurrence of human cases, most of them caused by bats, in the USA. It is highlighted that the occurrence of human rabies is uncommon in the country in spite of the record of 20 to 40 thousand exposures per year; dog rabies has been eliminated; main hosts are bats, raccoons, foxes, skunks and mongooses (Puerto Rico), 95 thousand of animals are subjected to diagnostic tests per year, with 6,500 to 8,000 cases of animal rabies diagnosed

annually; and epidemiological surveillance is supported by 126 laboratories. Maps are presented with geographical references of rabies cases according to animal hosts. Information is given on oral vaccination in dogs and accounts are provided on CDC collaboration and coordination actions for rabies control in Taiwan, Guatemala, Peru, Haiti, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

Discussion

It is expressed that oral vaccination of dogs against rabies is increasingly more virus-specific and continuously assessed and improved. Besides, there are successful experiences of application in Mexico, as well as those observed in USA, Canada, and European countries. Peru and Colombia are congratulated for the pre-exposure prophylaxis strategies in at-risk populations, whose impact is observed in the resulting reduction of human cases. It is suggested that these experiences should be disseminated and their replication should be promoted in other countries of the region.

SESSION 7: PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAM OF RABIES OF HERBIVORES

Economic impact of the occurrence of rabies in herbivores and public health risk. Cost-benefit of activities for the control of rabies in herbivores.

The model of ecologic relationships in vampire bats (*Desmodus rotundus*) is presented based on the definition of its putative population dynamics and its relationship with intra- and extra-colony behavior of rabies. The proposal is presented for the improvement of the National Program for rabies control in Herbivores in Brazil, based on the incorporation of hematophagous bat biology indicators and the circulation of the rabies virus, determination of the critical level of virus attack and transmission, modeling of the dissemination of rabies in herbivores and proposal of measures for rabies surveillance and control within the scope of the vampire biology. The proposal of the cost-benefit analysis and the economic impact of measures for the control and surveillance of rabies in herbivores in different scenarios is described.

Strategic control of hematophagous bat populations and reduction of rabies in herbivores.

The schedule of the program and the legal basis for rabies control in herbivores in Mexico is presented, which is based on immunization of at-risk animals, control of hematophagous bat populations, epidemiological surveillance, attention of suspected and confirmed cases by laboratory diagnosis. Actions to control bat populations in 2014 and the first quarter of 2015 are described regarding: number of shelters intervened, monitoring operations carried out, capture and treatment of hematophagous bats and bats with positive and negative lab diagnoses. Information is presented on records of cattle positive by DIF and training activities. Perspectives for reinforcement of the control program are summarized.

Discussion

It is explained that the size of colonies in Mexico is small and climate change would not have a large impact on the population of *D. rotundus* but it would impact other bat species that hibernate, such as insectivorous and fruit bats. Some questions are posed about the dynamics, balance and dissemination of animals derived from control actions; promoting the use of predictive models is suggested to have an improved estimate to the questions put forward.

SESSION 8: LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF RABIES

Presentation of interlaboratory exercise results for rabies diagnosis.

Vision and principles of the REDILAR and, within this framework, the exercise objectives are summarized; a panel with 20 negative and positive samples by DIF is used as well as a questionnaire on laboratory techniques. Thirty laboratories participated: 13 health laboratories and 17 agricultural laboratories. It is stated that several consistent results were obtained between participating laboratories; hypotheses are posed on the conditions of fixation of slides on sample stability and the consistency levels achieved. The results of the questionnaire are provided both regarding significant variation in sample selection and processing protocol and in comparison to other results; results on staff availability, criteria for sample approval or rejection, weekly processing capacity, use of conjugates and occupational health (pre-exposure prophylaxis, Ab titration) are provided. Agreement is reached on the need to carry out regional proficiency exercises for rabies diagnosis, on the relevance of the REDILAR for the elimination of rabies, and on PANAFTOSA/PAHO cooperation to observe exercise recommendations.

ROUND TABLE: PAHO-CDC-IP Collaborating Centers, Cuba and Canada. Discussion on exercise results and proposals

Interventions coincide on the need to standardize interlaboratory exercises in order to achieve better levels of agreement and reduce and eliminate false negatives; REDILAR relevance is highlighted and the preparation of a detailed working plan covering specificities and needs of the countries is requested. The availability of PAHO protocols for rabies diagnosis is reminded, which should be strictly complied with and modified only if evidence is available. Results of the interlaboratory exercise show the urgent need to cover basic laboratory requirements for Direct Immunofluorescence test. National reference laboratories could apply molecular diagnostic techniques for viral characterization; with this purpose, the CDC restates its commitment to the timely supply of WHO provided that noticed logistic problems are overcome. The preparation of an agreement between Collaborating Centers, CDC and CFA/Canada is under study for technical cooperation and the supply of standardized reagents and materials for rabies diagnosis.

SESSION 9: AVAILABILITY OF ANTI-RABIES IMMUNOBIOLOGICALS (SERUM AND VACCINES)

Report of the Revolving Fund on Vaccines

It is reported that 41 countries and territories participate in the Revolving Fund, whose strategy consists in joint purchases by member countries, credit facilities (60 days) for timely access to products at low costs and with guaranteed quality. The list of biologicals is given, which include human and dog rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins; price list, process and responsibilities of Fund, credit line, benefits, immunoglobulin and rabies vaccines volumes of purchase are presented. Processes for planning annual purchases is highlighted and country delegates are urged to present purchase orders on time in order to avoid supply problems regarding the time, quality and quantity required.

Immunobiologicals and vaccines availability versus planning in the countries– Inclusion in the EPI.

This topic was addressed in the previous presentation

Discussion

During the session, it is stated that the Fund attends to the requirements for the purchase of syringes, thermal flasks, freezers, refrigerators, and other equipment and materials necessary for immunization programs, adding that their volume has an impact on costs. It is informed that on September 2015 the negotiations for the purchase of 18 million doses of rabies vaccine for Brazil have concluded; besides, the purchase of 1 million doses of human rabies vaccines is foreseen for 2016. A positive decision is made on the possibility of partial delivery of biologicals (every 3-4 months), which will only increase the cold chain costs. It is stated that biologicals warranty period is one year as of the date of arrival of the vaccine to the buyer country. It is suggested that, in order to estimate the cost of the biologicals to be purchased, a 2-3% percent should be added to the cost of the previous year. Country delegates are asked again to submit their annual requests for the purchase of immunobiologicals on time.

SESSION 10: GROUP WORK

Five working groups are set up in order to address the following topics:

GROUP 1 - Priority countries for the elimination of dog-mediated rabies and the supply of vaccines/immunobiologicals.

GROUP 2 - Declaration of countries or areas free from dog-mediated human rabies.

GROUP 3 - Wild rabies: Strategic prevention guidelines.

GROUP 4 - Rabies of herbivores: strengthening of national programs.

GROUP 5 - Provision of vaccines, immunobiologicals and supplies for diagnosis.

In a plenary session, the reports of the working groups, attached herein, are submitted and approved

SESSION 11: COLLABORATING CENTERS FOR RABIES AND ZOOSES

Actions of WHO CC in rabies and zoonoses in the Region of the Americas: perspectives and plans

The background, the institutional profile and the cooperation functions of the Collaborating Centers to the countries of the Region are summarized: CDC - USA, Zoonosis Control Center-Brazil, Pasteur Institute -Brazil, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Thomas Jefferson University-USA. Cooperation plans and activities agreed with PAHO/WHO are presented, which give priority to the support for the evaluation and strengthening of national laboratories, the application of (virological and serological) techniques for rabies diagnosis, the production and supply of WHO, rabies virus conjugate by DIF, reagents, standard virus, cell lines), research (control of wild rabies, identification of hosts, oral vaccines), technical training (on diagnostic techniques, Ab titration, epidemiological surveillance, etc., in their labs or in the countries), technology transfer (molecular diagnosis, reagent production, surveillance systems, etc.). The support to the promotion and execution of pre-exposure prophylaxis strategies in at-risk groups and the application of a reduced (4 dose) vaccine schedule for prophylaxis and intradermal administration is discussed.

Discussion

At the request of the attendees, panelists explain and complement some of the topics previously addressed. They advise human or animal rabies-free countries to issue the health alert and activate their epidemiological

surveillance systems. Participants recognize, thank and request Collaborating Centers to strengthen their collaboration with the countries of the Region.

SESSION 12: CONTRIBUTION OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISMS ON RABIES

Participants receive information and an invitation to the Global Conference “Global Elimination of Dog-Mediated Human Rabies”, organized by FAO-OIE-WHO, on September 10-11, 2015, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Representatives of OIRSA, FAO, GARC, OIE and WAP give a brief account of projects to support sub-regional, regional and global cooperation programs. Inter-agency OIE-FAO-WHO cooperation is highlighted for their efforts in the final stage of dog-mediated human rabies elimination in the Region of the Americas and, correspondingly, the collaboration with the countries of Africa and Asia. Within this context, collaboration and coordination actions at worldwide level with GARC and its strategic partners are pointed out, as well as with WAP, for animal protection and welfare. In the Central America sub-region, the role of OIRSA is highlighted in the control of bovine paralytic rabies, as well as the role of FAO in the “Control of bovine paralytic rabies, One Health” for the Region of the Americas, in coordination with other international cooperation agencies and organisms. Positive results are given of the dog rabies vaccine bank, established in 2011 with funds of the European Union and managed by the OIE; it is indicated that this mechanism has been used by WHO to respond to vaccine purchase requirements for countries of Asia and Africa.

Presentation, discussion and approval of REDIPRA conclusions and recommendations

In a plenary session, REDIPRA 15 resolutions, attached herein, are presented, reviewed and approved.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

In a solemn session, chaired by Dr. Eduardo Caldas, SVS-MS, Brazil and Dr. Ottorino Cosivi, PANAFTSA-PAHO/WHO, attendees are thanked for their participation, the work of SVS-MS, Brazil, and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO support staff, who has contributed to the success of the meeting, is acknowledged and, subsequently REDIPRA 15 is adjourned.



PAHO



WHO

PANAFTOSA

Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

Veterinary Public Health

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 15th REDIPRA

RECOMMENDATION I
PLAN FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN RABIES IN THE AMERICAS
FINAL STAGE

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- Most countries of the Americas have achieved the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies and its sporadic occurrence is limited to small geographic areas of the continent;
- Residual occurrence of cases hinders reaching the final stage for the elimination of rabies in the Americas, foreseen for the end of 2015, compliant to the Resolution of the 49th Directing Council of PAHO/WHO.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to develop a Regional Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Dog-mediated human rabies in the Americas, with special emphasis on priority countries and areas with residual virus circulation.
2. To highlight that, once designed, national plan and programs will constitute the technical support for the definition of a temporal horizon for the elimination of the disease in the Region.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION II
STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL CAPACITIES

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- The occurrence of dog rabies cases are emergency case events due to the risk of spread to countries or areas free from disease, with the resulting impact on the health status reached by the Region of the Americas;
- The International Health Regulations (WHO) and the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (OIE) consider the strengthening of surveillance capacities and containment of cross-border diseases such as rabies, with impact on public health;
- The social and economic impact of rabies in the countries of the Region.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To encourage national authorities of the ministries of health and agriculture of the countries to strengthen national surveillance capacities and health control of rabies, with an emphasis on at-risk and bi- or multi-national border areas, and to take active participation in information systems established for their regular monitoring.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION III
JOINT WORK IN THE FINAL STAGE OF RABIES ELIMINATION

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- In some priority countries and areas of the Region intensive focus on human resources is necessary to address endemic or health emergency situations, participate in processes to develop, execute and assess rabies prevention, surveillance and assessment activities in order to attain efficient and timely results with an impact on local and international settings;
- There are professionals of official and private entities in the Region who have gained experience and knowledge due to their participation in rabies control who could respond to human resources requirements.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To ask PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to promote joint and collaborative work between the countries by articulating efforts and strengths between public and private organisms, international cooperation agencies and non-governmental organizations in order to enable resource mobilization to endemic or health emergency countries and/or areas, or the execution of strategies for rabies control and elimination.
2. To ask PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to design a chart of human resources to respond to collaborative work demands in priority countries or areas, or between countries of the Region, related to rabies control and elimination.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION IV
PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS SCHEDULES IN AT-RISK POPULATIONS

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- In the last few years, cases and outbreaks of human rabies transmitted by hematophagous bats have been reported with no recorded experiences of application of pre-exposure vaccination schedules in large populations;

- Socio-cultural, environmental and geographical conditions of at-risk communities, such as those in the Amazon basin, have prevented the application of effective measures for the prevention of rabies transmitted by hematophagous bats, except on the occasion of the management and control of cases and outbreaks.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To congratulate the authorities of the national health systems of Peru and Colombia for the initiative, delivery and commitment in the application of pre-exposure vaccination schedules for rabies in large population groups of the Peruvian and Colombian Amazon, and the Colombian Pacific Coast.

2. To underline that this initiative is a recorded experience, available for the health services of the countries of the Region in their task to protect the health and life conditions of vulnerable population groups.

3. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, in their condition of Ex Officio Secretariat of REDIPRA 15, to put on record this recommendation for the Ministers of Health and Agriculture of Peru and Colombia, and promote the dissemination of the outcome of these initiatives as well as their application in other areas with similar risks and characteristics.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION V
RABIES DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY NETWORK- REDILAR

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- The positive criteria of the participants of the Interlaboratory Exercise, organized by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, regarding the need to keep the Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory Network – REDILAR –, comprised of diagnostic laboratories of the health and agriculture sectors of the countries of the Americas, active and operative;
- The inter-laboratory exercise has shown strengths and challenges regarding institutional structure, diagnostic capacity, quality management systems, training and technology exchange, information generation and dissemination.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To ask REDILAR, coordinated by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, to develop a roadmap focusing on priority countries to define a schedule to harmonize rabies diagnoses, submit reports, and execute annual proficiency exercises.
2. To request REDILAR to explore every possible mechanism to ensure the supply of mAbs and other reagents necessary for rabies diagnosis and surveillance, in the desirable conditions for the final stage of elimination.
3. To promote the active participation of WHO Collaborating Centers in the mission and goals of the REDILAR.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION VI
MORE EFFICIENT POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS SCHEDULES

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- Most countries are facing multiple health priorities, budgetary restrictions and the need to optimize resources, particularly in priority countries.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. That the countries consider alternative post-exposure prophylaxis schedules instead of those prevailing in the Region, based on the application of 5 IM doses, using either four intramuscular doses or intradermal administration schedules, in order to guarantee better access of at-risk population to post-exposure prophylaxis, compliant to WHO recommendation (WHO Technical Report Series, 982, 2013).

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION VII
COMPULSORY REPORTING OF OCCURRENCES AND OTHER INFORMATION AGREED BY THE
COUNTRIES TO THE SIRVERA

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- Health information and notifications are essential for epidemiological assessments and technical/executive measures of National Programs;
- Recommendation 1, item 9, presented in REDIPRA 14 (Lima, Peru) to review the SIRVERA in order to facilitate its use by the countries of the Region;
- The proposals submitted by representatives of member countries during the plenary session of REDIPRA15, summarized in the meeting report;
- The data regularly provided to the SIRVERA will constitute the base of the evidence for the declaration of countries and areas free from dog rabies.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To recognize as effective the proposals of advances presented by PANAFTOSA for the review and improvement of the SIRVERA;
2. To urge the countries to acknowledge the compulsory nature of urgent reporting to the SIRVERA in case of rabies occurrence, and the regular reporting of capacities and development of National Programs.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION VIII
STRENGTHENING OF PROGRAMS FOR RABIES CONTROL IN HERBIVORES

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- The different levels of development of the Programs for rabies control in herbivores in the Region;
- The accessibility of evidence about surveillance, prevention and control of rabies in herbivores by control programs of the Region.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To acknowledge the need of the countries to reinforce programs for rabies control in herbivores according to the pattern harmonized by PANAFTOSA/PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with the countries, to identify their capacities and specific contexts.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

RECOMMENDATION IX
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 15th REDIPRA Meeting

WHEREAS

- In view of the excellent conditions offered at the 15th Meeting of the REDIPRA by official authorities of Brazil for the development of the 15 REDIPRA and the Pre-REDIPRA International Seminar.

IT RECOMMENDS,

1. To thank the Ministry of Health of Brazil, through its Health Surveillance Secretary, represented by Dr. Eduardo Pacheco de Caldas, for the commitment with REDIPRA 15 and the consideration received during our stay in the city of Brasilia.

(Approved in the plenary session of
September 17, 2015)

ANNEXES

**15th MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR RABIES CONTROL IN THE AMERICAS -
REDIPRA 15**

Brasilia, Brazil, September 16-17, 2015

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, September 16, 2015

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 - 09:30 Opening Ceremony REDIPRA 15
Opening Speeches:
Ottorino Cosivi, Director, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
Alexandre Fonseca Santos, Chief Cabinet in Health Surveillance Secretariat (SVS)
Elaine Sena, Representative of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil
- 09:30 - 09:45 Opening of Work Sessions: Election of Chairperson and Rapporteurs for REDIPRA 15
- 09:45 - 11:00 **SESSION 1: Secretariat report REDIPRA 15 - PANAFTOSA PAHO/WHO**
Ottorino Cosivi - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 1.1 Report of the Working Groups REDIPRA 14
- 1.1.1 WG 1: On the elimination of rabies in canines, with emphasis on the priority countries - *Marco Vigilato* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 1.1.2 WG 2: On the declaration of countries or areas free of human rabies transmitted by canines - *Victor Del Rio* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 1.1.3 WG 3: Sylvatic Rabies: strategic guidelines for prevention
Marco Vigilato - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 1.1.4 WG 4 – Rabies in herbivores: strengthening national programs
Julio Pompei - PANAFTOSA-OPS/OMS
- 1.1.5 WG 5 - The provision of vaccines / Immunobiologicals and Rabies Diagnosis
Victor Del Rio - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 10:45 - 11:00 Discussion
- 11:00 - 11:15 Break
- 11:15 - 11:45 **SESSION 2: Situation of rabies programs in the Americas**
Moderator: *Victor Del Rio* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 2.1 Epidemiological situation of rabies in the Americas: What is needed to achieve the elimination of human rabies transmitted by canines?
Victor Del Rio - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 2.2 Report of the pre-REDIPRA survey of 15 countries - Situation of national programs for rabies.
Victor Del Rio - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 11:45 - 12:00 Discussion

- 12:00 - 12:45 **SESSION 3: Information on the Epidemiological Surveillance of Rabies in the Americas**
Moderator: *Julio Pompei* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 3.1 Current situation of the transit of epidemiological information between countries and PANAFTOSA - *Julio Pompei* – PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
 - 3.2 Systems and notifications status of the countries to OIE
Baldomero Molina Flores, OIE
 - 3.3 SIRVERA: Adding value with the visualization and mapping of Rabies
Lia Puppim Buzanovsky - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 12:45 - 13:00 Discussion
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 - 15:15 **SESSION 4: Endemic areas of human rabies transmitted by canines**
Moderator: *Marco Vigilato*-PAHO/WHO
- 4.1 Introduction: Key challenges, inter-country cooperation and international cooperation actions - *Marco Vigilato* -PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
 - 4.2 Roundtable: Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru and Dominican Republic
- 15:15 - 15:30 Discussion
- 15:30 - 16:15 **SESSION 5: Declaration of human rabies transmitted by canines countries or free areas**
Moderator: *Victor Del Rio* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 5.1 Introduction: Report of the Pre-REDIPRA seminar conclusions and steps to declare a free areas - *Victor Del Rio* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
 - 5.2 Roundtable: Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Uruguay and Nicaragua
- 16:15 - 16:30 Discussion
- 16:30 - 16:45 Break
- 16:45 - 18:15 **SESSION 6: Advances in surveillance, prevention and control of Sylvatic Rabies**
Moderator: *Marco Vigilato* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 6.1 Advances in Pre Exposure Prophylaxis
 - 6.1.1 Experience in the Peruvian Amazon
Jose Oswaldo Cabanillas Angulo, Ministry of Health
 - 6.1.2 Colombian experience story
Jairo Hernández, Ministry of Health
 - 6.2 Surveillance of rabies in sylvatic animals
 - 6.2.1 Mexico - Mexican experience Story
Verónica Gutiérrez Cedilla, Secretary of Health
 - 6.2.2 Chile - Chilean experience Story
Carlos Pavletic, Ministry of Health
 - 6.2.3 French Guyana experience Story
René Quirin, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forests, French
 - 6.2.4 Research report surveillance of rabies in wild animals
Brett Petersen, WHO Collaborating Center – CDC
- 18:15 - 18:30 Discussion
- 18:30 Closing

THURSDAY, September 17, 2015

08:00 - 08:40 **SESSION 7: Presentation of the Herbivores Rabies Regional Program**

Moderator: *Julio Pompei* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

- 7.1 Economic impact on the occurrence of rabies in herbivores and the risk to public health. Cost-effective control activities rabies of herbivores;
Ricardo Dias, University of São Paulo
- 7.2 The strategic control of the population of vampire bats and the reduction of rabies in herbivores;
Baltazar Cortés García, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishing and Feeding, Mexico

08:40 - 09:00 Discussion

09:00 - 09:45 **SESSION 8: Laboratory Diagnosis of Rabies**

Moderator: *Victor Del Rio* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

- 8.1 Presentation of the results of inter-laboratory exercise for rabies diagnosis
Victor del Rio - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 8.2 Roundtable: WHO Collaborating Centers – CDC, IP, Cuba and Canada
Open discussion on the results of operations and proposals

09:45 - 10:00 Discussion

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 11:00 **SESSION 9: Availability Immunobiologicals (Serum and Vaccine) Rabies**

Moderator: *Marco Vigilato* - PAHO/WHO

- 9.1 Report of the Revolving Vaccine Fund.
Monica Pereira, PAHO/WHO
- 9.2 The availability of vaccines versus Immunobiologicals and country planning - Insertion in the PAI
Marco Vigilato, PAHO/WHO

11:00 - 11:15 Discussion

11:15 - 12:30 **SESSION 10 : Working groups for the strengthening of the rabies programs in the Americas**

Moderator: *Julio Pompei* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

- GROUP 1 - Priority countries for the elimination of rabies transmitted by canines and the supply of vaccines/imunobiologies. *Marco Vigilato*, PAHO/WHO
- GROUP 2 - The declaration of canine-transmitted human rabies free areas or countries. *Victor Del Rio*, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- GROUP 3 - Sylvatic rabies: strategic guidelines for prevention. *Albino Belotto*, PAHO/WHO
- GROUP 4 - Rabies in herbivores: strengthening national programs. *Julio Pompei*, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- GROUP 5 - The provision of supplies and rabies diagnosis. *Mary Hofmeister Freire de Carvalho*, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

- 12:30 - 13:30 Lunch
- 13:30 - 14:30 **SESSION 10: Presentation of Groups**
Moderator: *Victor del Rio* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
Group 1 – Group 2 – Group 3 – Group 4 – Group 5
- 14:30 - 15:15 **SESSION 11: Collaborating Centers for Rabies and Zoonosis**
Moderator: *Marco Vigilato* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 11.1 WHO CC actions shares on Rabies and Zoonosis in the Region of the Americas: Prospects and Plans
- CDC, USA – *Jesse Blanton*
 - Zoonosis Control Center, Brazil – *Tamara Cortez*
 - Pasteur Institute, Brazil – *Luciana Hardt Gomez*
 - CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency), Canada – *Peter Buck*
 - The Wistar Institute – *Charles Rupprecht*
- 15:15 - 15:30 Discussion
- 15:30 - 15:45 Break
- 15:45 - 16:45 **SESSION 12: Contribution of other international organizations in Rabies**
Moderator: *Marco Vigilato* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- Presentations:
- WHO - Global Rabies Meeting 2015. *Bernadette Abela-Ridder*
 - OIRSA - Activities in the field of support for Rabies Programs in Central America. *Luis Alberto Espinoza*
 - FAO - Examples of activities in other continents. *Leopoldo del Barrio Reyna*
 - GARC - Activities undertaken to support rabies elimination in the Americas. *Louise Taylor*
 - OIE –OIE’s Regional Bank of rabies vaccine. *Baldomero Molina Flores*
 - WAP - Implementation of the pilots of the 5 keys to prevent bites. *Melania Gamboa*
- 16:45 - 17:00 Discussion
- 17:00 - 18:00 **Presentation, discussion and approval of the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting**
Moderator: *Ottorino Cosivi* - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
- 18:00 Meeting Close

**15th MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR RABIES CONTROL IN THE AMERICAS -
REDIPRA 15**

Brasilia, Brazil, September 16-17, 2015

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■ **Nicarágua**

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■ Panamá

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■ Paraguay

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