



PAHO



WHO

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**

Brasilia, Brazil, September 16-17, 2015

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)