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## 16th MEETING OF RABIES PROGRAM DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAS - REDIPRA 16

*Antigua Guatemala | 29-30 November 2017*

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### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 16th REDIPRA

#### RECOMMENDATION 1 - ELIMINATE CANINE RABIES IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

1. Continue the technical cooperation of PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO to the countries, especially Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, in coordination with the WHO Collaborating Centers and other stakeholders involved.
2. Promote rabies surveillance and control strategies in border areas, making joint activities between countries feasible with technical cooperation from PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO and other important stakeholders.

#### RECOMMENDATION 2 - STRENGTHEN RABIES DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

1. Under the coordination of PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO and with the support of the WHO Collaborating Centers, promote the strengthening of laboratory activities, adopting mechanisms to guarantee the availability of essential supplies and equipment for diagnosis, infrastructure improvements, incorporation of technologies, harmonization of techniques, exchanges for professional qualification, and periodic interlaboratory evaluations.
2. With technical cooperation from PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO, support from the WHO Collaborating Centers, and the commitment of the governments, ensure that all countries participating in REDIPRA have the basic skills for laboratory diagnosis of rabies by the end of 2018.

#### RECOMMENDATION 3 - STRENGTHEN RABIES DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY IN THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

1. With the mediation of PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO, urge the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) of PAHO/WHO to strengthen cold chain guidelines for the immunobiologicals used in rabies programs and promote their use in the countries.
2. Consider appropriate use of the Revolving Fund, in terms of time and quantity, for procuring the necessary immunobiologicals and supplies for the national rabies programs.

#### RECOMMENDATION 4 - REPORT RABIES CASES IN THE COUNTRIES TO SIRVERA

1. Recognize the updates submitted by PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO to SIRVERA as effective and proceed with the next programmed updates.
2. Urge countries to speedily report new rabies cases to SIRVERA and update the data on cases of human and animal rabies.

**RECOMMENDATION 5 - UPDATE THE INFORMATION ON NATIONAL RABIES PROGRAMS (REDIPRA 16 SURVEY)**

1. Within two weeks, countries should complete and/or update the survey on national rabies programs for its consideration in the REDIPRA 16 Report.

**RECOMMENDATION 6 - SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF RABIES SURVEILLANCE IN BATS AND OTHER WILDLIFE IN THE CARIBBEAN**

1. Request PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO, in coordination with interested members, donors, and other member countries, to implement the plan for rabies surveillance in bats and other wildlife in the Caribbean.

**RECOMMENDATION 7 - STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS FOR RABIES IN WILDLIFE AND HERBIVORES**

1. Strengthen programs for rabies surveillance, prevention, and control in wildlife and herbivores in the countries, with technical support from PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO, the WHO Collaborating Centers, and other stakeholders involved.

**RECOMMENDATION 8 - IMMUNOGLOBULIN BANKS**

1. PAHO/WHO and the countries of the Region of the Americas should explore the feasibility of creating subregional immunoglobulin banks.

**RECOMMENDATION 9 - INFORMATION ON THE RABIES SITUATION IN BOLIVIA**

1. Considering the current epidemiological scenario of human rabies transmitted by dogs in Bolivia, the delegates of the countries participating in REDIPRA 16 urge PANAFTOSA/VPH-PAHO/WHO to request the Ministry of Health of Bolivia to provide an update on the epidemiological situation and control measures implemented to facilitate its timely and adequate communication to the member countries as soon as it is received by the Technical Secretariat.

**RECOMMENDATION 10 - ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

1. Thank the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala for their commitment to REDIPRA 16 and the Pre-REDIPRA International Seminar and for the courtesies extended during the participants' stay in Antigua Guatemala, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), through its Representative, Dr. Oscar Barreneche, and his entire team, especially Dr. Romeo Montoya, for their unconditional support.

(Approved in the plenary session of  
November 30, 2017)