

# Maximise your country's efforts against rabies

**Apply for endorsement of your official control programme for dog-mediated rabies**



By seeking such endorsement from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), your country can progressively aim for zero human rabies deaths.

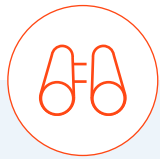


**World Organisation  
for Animal Health**  
Founded as OIE

# 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 controlling and potentially eliminating a disease in a given country or territory.

Implementing such a plan involves demonstrating that a country's Veterinary Services and other competent authorities have effective capacities in line with WOAH international Standards. It includes the following measures:



## Surveillance and reporting in animal populations:

to monitor the evolution of the disease and detect potential cases as early as possible



## Vaccination campaigns:

to tackle the disease at its main animal source



## Effective management of free-roaming dogs in line with WOAH Standards:

to reach an immune or rabies-free dog population while ensuring that animal welfare is respected



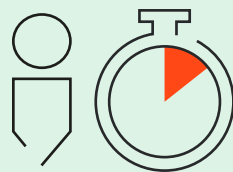
## Public awareness and education campaigns:

to improve the understanding of the risks related to rabies, as well as how to prevent them

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

 **59,000**  
deaths

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



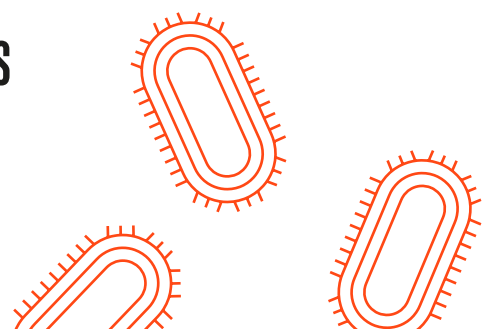
That is **one person every nine minutes**



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

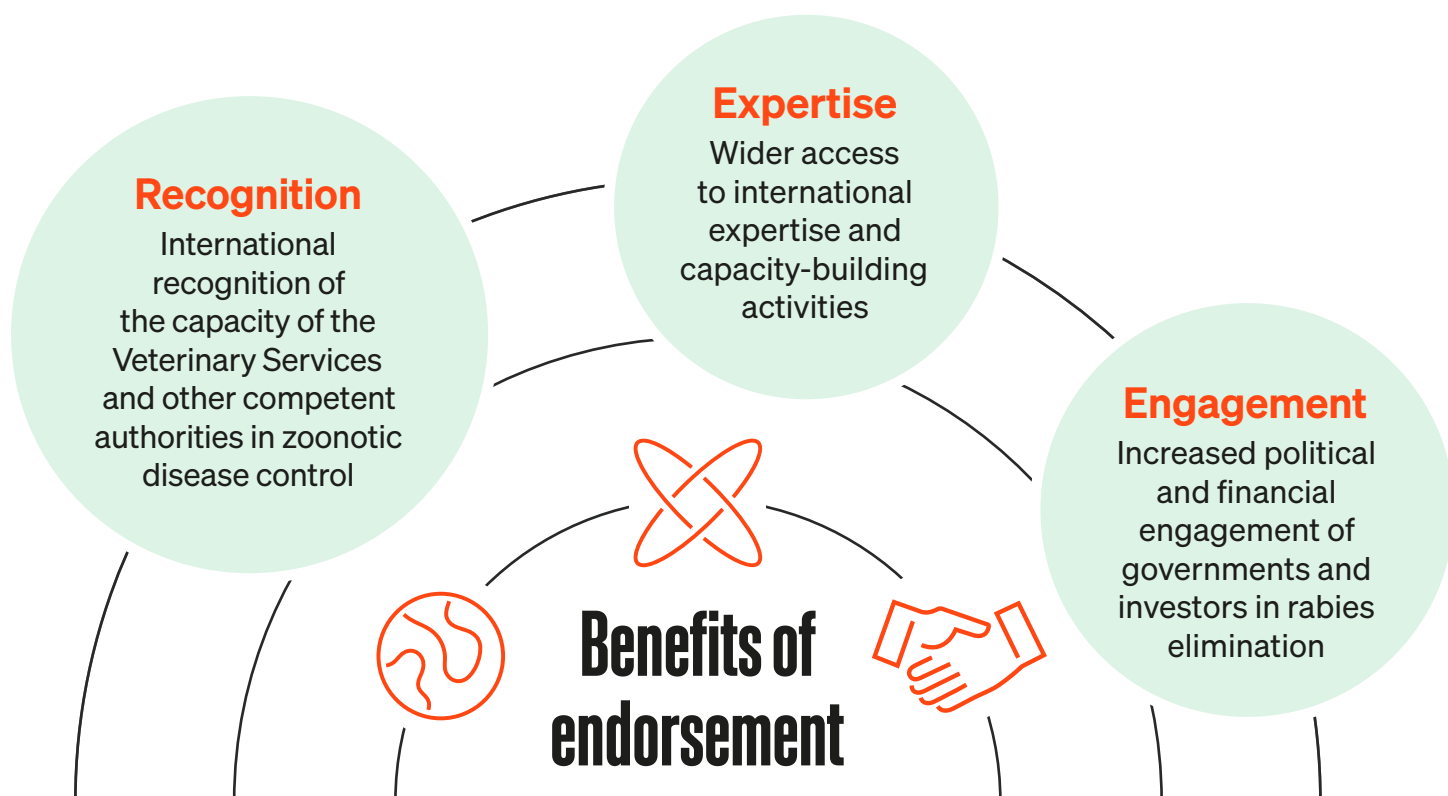
Yet we have all the tools available, including high-quality vaccines, to eliminate the disease and effectively prevent it.

“ **Vaccinating at least 70% of dogs in at-risk areas can reduce human cases of rabies to zero** ”



# Why apply to have your official control programme endorsed?

To support our Members in their rabies elimination efforts, we encourage national Veterinary Services to apply for an official review and endorsement of their national control programmes for dog-mediated rabies.



## An 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

“ Receiving the endorsement of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies is a key asset for our Members. It provides strong evidence-based arguments to advocate for increased support and investments from their government, and thereby to advance towards rabies elimination ”

Dr Monique Eloit, Director General, World Organisation for Animal Health

# How to apply for endorsement

In line with our procedure and guidelines, Members need to compile documents that evidence:

- ✓ A good understanding of human and dog demographics and epidemiology of the disease on their territory
- ✓ The capacity of the Veterinary Services, along with effective collaboration with other competent authorities
- ✓ Measures to control dog-mediated rabies including surveillance and diagnosis
- ✓ A dog-mediated rabies control strategy with a clear work plan, timelines and budget for the following five years

[www.woah.org/official-disease-status](http://www.woah.org/official-disease-status)



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## Support and further information

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email us at [disease.status@woah.org](mailto:disease.status@woah.org)

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