



Application for endorsement by WOAHA of an official control programme for dog-mediated rabies

The overall objective of an [official control programme](#) for dog-mediated rabies endorsed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH founded as OIE) is for Member Countries to progressively improve their dog-mediated rabies situation and eventually make a self-declaration in accordance with Chapter [1.6](#), as a country free from dog-mediated rabies. The [official control programme](#) should be applicable to the entire country even if certain measures are directed towards defined subpopulations only.

The following information should be provided by WOAHA Member Countries to support an application for endorsement by WOAHA of an [official control programme](#) for dog-mediated rabies in accordance with Chapter [8.15](#), of the [Terrestrial Code](#).

The dossier provided to WOAHA should address concisely all the topics under the headings provided in Sections 1. to 4. below to describe the actual situation in the country and the procedures currently applied, demonstrating the commitment of the Member Country to comply with the requirements of Chapter [8.15](#), of the [Terrestrial Code](#).

In Section 4, the dossier should describe concisely the work plan and timelines of the control programme for the next five years.

The terminology defined in the WOAHA [Terrestrial Code](#) and [Terrestrial Manual](#) should be referred to and used in compiling the dossier.

National legislation, regulations and [Veterinary Authority](#) directives may be referred to and annexed as appropriate in one of the WOAHA official languages. Weblinks to supporting documents in one of the official languages of WOAHA may also be provided, where they exist.

All annexes should be provided in one of the WOAHA official languages.

The Delegate of the Member Country applying for endorsement of an [official control programme](#) should submit documented evidence that the provisions of Article [8.15.11](#), have been properly implemented and supervised. In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country must submit the national [official control programme](#) for dog-mediated rabies as detailed below.

The dossier should provide maps, figures and tables wherever possible. **Some example figures and table templates can be found as appendices in the [Guidance document](#).**

1. Introduction

- a. Human demographics. Provide a general description of the population distribution, census, socio-economic and cultural features and rural and urban development of the country that are relevant to the spread of rabies virus in dogs. Provide maps identifying the features above. Specify whether the application includes any non-contiguous territories.
- b. Dog demographics. Describe the composition of dog population in the country and a breakdown in [zones](#), if relevant. In particular, provide an estimation of the dog population size including the [free-roaming dog](#) population in accordance with Chapter [7.7](#), and human:dog ratio, dog distribution (rural/urban) and ecology. Describe the methodology used for the estimation (e.g., dog registration databases, household questionnaires, and surveys of dogs, owners, dog shelters, direct observation, mark-resight, etc.);

- c. If the endorsed plan is implemented in stages to specific zones of the country, the boundaries of those zones should be clearly defined. Provide a map with the description of the geographical boundaries of the zones.
2. Governance of the national control programme for dog-mediated rabies

a. Competent Authorities.

Identify all Competent Authorities involved in the supervision, control, enforcement and monitoring of rabies-related activities. Provide a description of the role and responsibilities for the management of the dog-mediated rabies control programme, indicating the role of Veterinary Services, human health authorities and other Competent Authorities such as municipalities and those responsible for *wild* and *feral* animals, other organisations such as non-governmental organisations, kennel clubs and breeders, dog-owners, and other relevant groups in rabies control.

b. Veterinary Authority.

- i. Describe how the Veterinary Authority of the country comply with Chapters 1.1, 3.1, and 3.2, of the Terrestrial Code. Describe how the Veterinary Services supervise, control, enforce and monitor rabies-related activities.
- ii. Provide information on any WOAHP PVS evaluation conducted in the country and follow-up steps within the PVS Pathway and highlight the results relevant to the control of dog-mediated rabies.

c. Human health system.

- i. Describe the health care system and services related to human rabies prevention and its links to the Veterinary Services.
- ii. Describe how the human health authorities supervise, control, enforce and monitor rabies-related activities.

d. Other Competent Authorities.

- i. Describe how other Competent Authorities supervise, control, enforce and monitor rabies-related activities.

e. Legal framework

Legislation. Provide a table listing all relevant legislation, regulations and directives in relation to rabies control and a brief description of the relevance of each. What are the mechanisms in place to monitor and ensure compliance with the legislation?

3. Current status and control of dog-mediated rabies

Submit a concise description of the measures for the current control and eventual elimination of dog-mediated rabies in the country, including:

a. Epidemiology

- i. Describe the spatial and temporal rabies situation of at least the past five years. Provide tables and maps showing the date of detection, the number and location of cases in susceptible animals (by species) and in humans.
- ii. Describe the general epidemiology in the country highlighting current knowledge (e.g. high-risk areas, socio-cultural factors affecting rabies epidemiology) and gaps in knowledge and the progress over the last five years that has been made in controlling dog-mediated rabies.
- iii. Provide information on the epidemiological situation of rabies in the surrounding countries.

Example figures and table templates for this section are found in Appendix A of [Guidance document](#).

b. Rabies surveillance

Provide documented evidence that [surveillance](#) for rabies in the country complies with provisions in Chapter [1.4](#), and Article [8.15.13](#), of the [Terrestrial Code](#), and Chapter [3.1.17](#), of the [Terrestrial Manual](#). The following information should be included:

- i. the notification and reporting procedures (by whom and to whom) within the country, to other [Competent Authorities](#) and to WOAAH.
- ii. how is clinical [surveillance](#) conducted? Provide details of the process in place. Which susceptible species are part of the [surveillance](#) programme?
- iii. the sampling, submission and testing procedures that are used to identify and confirm presence of the rabies virus.
- iv. the role of human health and other [Competent Authorities](#) in dog-mediated rabies [surveillance](#).
- v. the [surveillance](#) data management systems, including how data are collected, aggregated, shared with other [Competent Authorities](#) (e.g. public health) and transmitted from community to national level.
- vi. the system for recording, managing and analysing the diagnostic data and how it is integrated in the animal health [surveillance](#) database and how the data are exchanged between human health, other [Competent Authorities](#) and [Veterinary Services](#);

Provide a summary table and a map indicating, for at least the past 24 months, the number of suspected [cases](#), the number of samples tested for animal rabies, species, type of sample, testing methods and results.

Provide data and a map on human cases, dog-bite incidents and post exposure prophylaxis in humans for the past 24 months.

Provide details of the methods selected and applied for monitoring the performance of the [surveillance](#) programme including indicators.

Example figures and table templates for this section are found in Appendix B of [Guidance document](#).

c. Rabies diagnosis

Provide documented evidence that the relevant provisions of Chapters [1.1.2](#), [1.1.3](#), and [3.1.17](#), of the [Terrestrial Manual](#) are applied. The following points should be addressed:

- i. Provide an overview of the [laboratories](#) performing rabies tests in the country, including the following:
 - the logistics for shipment of samples, the biosecurity and biosafety measures applied, the follow-up procedures and the time frame for reporting results;
 - details of the tests undertaken for rabies diagnosis and the proficiency testing programme. Provide details of the number of rabies tests performed in the past 24 months in national [laboratories](#) and in [laboratories](#) in other countries, if relevant;
 - if characterisation of virus isolates from human and animal [cases](#) is in place, describe it.
 - procedures for quality assurance e.g. official accreditation of [laboratories](#), Good Laboratory Practice, ISO, etc. that exist in, or are planned for, the [laboratory](#) system;
 - details of participation in inter-[laboratory](#) comparison tests (ring trials), including the most recent results and, if applicable, the corrective measures applied;

- details of the handling of live rabies virus, including a description of the biosecurity and biosafety measures applied;
 - ii. If rabies [laboratory](#) diagnosis is not carried out in the country, provide the names of the [laboratories](#) in other countries providing the service as well as the arrangements in place, including logistics for shipment of samples and the time frame for reporting results.
- d. Dog-mediated rabies control strategy

Describe the control strategies in the country, including the following:

- i. Description of the [vaccination](#) programme. Provide information on the [vaccination](#) strategies applied, the results of the [vaccination](#) campaigns during the last 24 months: frequency of [vaccination](#) campaigns, geospatial and temporal description of the campaigns, number of dogs vaccinated per population per campaign, [vaccination](#) coverage per year and by regions, etc. Data provided should differentiate emergency [vaccination](#) from systematic [vaccinations](#). Provide maps if available. Describe the methods used for estimating [vaccination](#) coverage should be clearly stated. Provide data on dog [vaccination](#) activities as part of a response to human rabies cases.
- ii. Provide a brief summary of the technical specifications of the dog rabies vaccines used and available in the country. Provide a description of the regulatory procedures in place, source of vaccines, cold-chain management, and management of the vaccine stock(s). Provide evidence that the vaccines used comply with Chapter 3.1.17. of the [Terrestrial Manual](#). Provide information on the registration and licensing process for the vaccines used.
- iii. Describe the supervision during the [vaccination](#) campaigns, post-[vaccination](#) monitoring strategy and the results of the [vaccination](#) coverage estimation, including in [free-roaming dog](#) populations.
- iv. Describe how dog populations are managed. Provide documented evidence that the relevant provisions of Chapter 7.7. of the [Terrestrial Code](#) are applied and the [Competent Authority](#) coordinating and involved in the implementation of [free-roaming dog](#) population control.
- v. Describe the measures implemented to prevent reintroduction of rabies, the criteria applied to approve importation of susceptible animals, the controls applied to entry of such animals and to their internal movements.

Example figures for this section are found in Appendix C of [Guidance document](#).

- e. Case investigation protocol

Describe the [case](#) investigation procedures used by the [Veterinary Services](#) for dealing with suspected or confirmed [case](#) of rabies in humans and animals. The [case](#) investigation protocol should be attached as an annex, if available.

- f. National and international collaboration

Describe the existing coordination mechanisms nationally and internationally in support of the decision-making process for the implementation and management of the control programme. In particular, describe:

- i. Intersectoral, One Health coordination mechanism (e.g. task forces, IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops) between the relevant [Competent Authorities](#) and other stakeholders.
- ii. Cross-border collaboration. Describe the cooperation, if any, with [Veterinary Authorities](#) and human health authorities of neighbouring countries in the control of dog-mediated rabies.
- iii. Regional collaboration. Describe coordination, collaboration and information-sharing activities with other countries in the region for the control of dog-mediated rabies.

g. Rabies awareness and education programmes

Provide a description of the awareness campaigns, training and education programmes on rabies, responsible dog ownership and dog bite prevention. Describe the targeted audience and collaboration with other [Competent Authorities](#).

Provide details of training programmes for personnel involved in [surveillance](#), dog [vaccination](#) campaigns and rabies prevention.

4. Work plan, timelines and budget of the official control programme for dog-mediated rabies for the next five years

Describe the progressive objectives including monitoring and evaluation framework and expected outcome to be achieved for each year for the next five years, for [zones](#) (if applicable) and for the whole country including:

- a. Performance indicators and timeline¹. The performance indicators should relate to the most important areas and steps where improvements in the programme are needed to decrease incidence of [cases](#) in dogs and humans. These may include, but are not restricted to, strengthening all relevant [Competent Authorities](#), legislation, reporting, availability and quality of vaccines, [animal identification](#) systems, [vaccination](#) coverage, movement control, disease awareness, etc. Describe how the performance indicators of the [official control programme](#) will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed. This should include documented evidence demonstrating that the control programme is implemented and that the first results are favourable.
- b. The outcome of the monitoring should be reflected when submitting the annual reconfirmation of your country's endorsement to WOA. The primary measurable indicators for success of the programme will be decreased incidence of [cases](#) in dogs and in humans in the whole country and selected [zones](#) as described in the programme. Additional performance indicators showing evidence of success should include, but not be limited to, [vaccination](#) data, number of trace back activities or 10-days observation under veterinary supervision following human or animal exposures, successfully implemented import measures, control of dog movements. This should include documented evidence of the effective implementation of Section 4.a. above.

Describe the funding required for the implementation of the control programme and annual budgets for the next five years. Provide details of budget for any planned [vaccination](#) campaign(s), [laboratory](#) support, logistical support and awareness campaigns, etc. Indicate for which years funding has been secured and any anticipated gaps in funding the proposed activities.

Example table templates for this section are found in Appendix D of [Guidance document](#).

¹ Member Countries can consider tools and resources available for example at: www.caninerabiesblueprint.org.