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## Program Update



Training is underway for field officers in Tanzania. In early July, a workshop was held for 52 livestock field officers and one health champions from Tarime, Roya and Butiama districts. The aim of the meeting was to train livestock field officers and one health champions on different vaccination strategies, which will be piloted in the three districts between July 2019 and June 2020.

Leveraging research from [Dr. Felix Lankester](#) on the thermo-stability of the rabies vaccine, our team is looking for ways to decrease the cost of vaccination programs, especially those in rural communities with limited resources. The project will test the viability of leveraging [livestock field officers who utilize stores of rabies vaccines kept in local villages in clay “refrigerators”](#).

The field officer group was educated on the past, current and future plans for rabies control efforts in



## In the News

[Vaccinations - a win-win for both wildlife and people](#)

[Rabies vaccine and immunoglobulin supply and logistics: Challenges and opportunities for rabies elimination in Kenya](#)

## Welcome New Partners

[Burnt Fork Veterinary Clinic](#) in Stevensville, MT

[Juanita Hills Animal Hospital](#) in Kirkland, WA

[Madison Street Animal Hospital](#) in Seattle, WA

[Mercer Street Veterinary Hospital](#) in Seattle, WA

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their work will contribute toward achieving that goal.

During the training, the livestock field officers and the one health champions received instruction about how rabies is spread and how it can be controlled through mass dog vaccination. Following this, the officers were taught how they can deliver mass dog vaccinations to their communities using thermotolerant vaccines.

In addition to receiving training about how to store vaccines and inoculate dogs and cats, they were also taught how to collect data on smart phones. This data will be used to determine how effective the new mass dog vaccination delivery strategy is.

The feedback our team received was that the training was very successful. The trainees shared that they are excited to undertake their role and responsibilities as part of this research initiative.

Following the training, the livestock field officers and one health champions are now ready to begin delivering mass dog vaccination campaigns of their own and at the beginning of August each officer returned to their respective communities to begin this important work.

This project would not be possible without your support. We will keep you updated on future progress.

[St. Francis 24hr Animal Hospital](#) in Vancouver, WA

[TLC Veterinary Clinic](#) in Olympia, WA

To see a list of our supporters, visit us [online](#).

[Give to Rabies Free Africa](#)

**Welcome Courtney**

Join us in welcoming Courtney Stanley to the Rabies Free Africa team.

Courtney is our administrative assistant based in Seattle. She comes to us with a mix of veterinary and research background. Courtney is a dog lover, especially her seven-year-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Sadie.

She will be working with Christie on fundraising and communication activities. You can welcome her or ask any questions about the program at [rabiesfreeafrica@wsu.edu](mailto:rabiesfreeafrica@wsu.edu)

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## World Rabies Day

World Rabies Day is September 28. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about the burden of rabies prevention and control efforts worldwide. We hope you will join us in sharing messages leading up to this important day to your clients and colleagues.

Our goal is to make it easy for you to promote the cause. We will have updated online resources available for you at a special link that we will send out at the beginning of September. If you need any of the printed materials restocked at your clinic, we encourage you to put in an order soon. The materials can be found on the [clinic toolkit](#). Orders can be submitted online or by emailing [rabiesfreeafrica@wsu.edu](mailto:rabiesfreeafrica@wsu.edu).

Posts on the Rabies Free Africa social media accounts will begin on September 16. You are welcome to share our posts or add the content directly to your account. The content will be available on the link shared in early September. If your clinic is on social media and not already following one of our pages, we encourage you to do so (we should be following you – if we are not let us know!).

For those of you who had the chance to meet Tongtong Xu, our intern, we wanted to share that her internship is now complete. She graduated with her master's degree from the University of Washington and is now embarking on her career. We hope you will join us in wishing her the best of luck.

## Join Us

If you live in the Seattle area, mark your calendar for the following talks at the Pacific Science Center featuring researchers from the WSU Allen School.

Tuesday, November 12  
[Dr. Sylvia Omulo](#) will discuss her work in Nairobi, Kenya on antibiotic resistance.

Tuesday, December 10  
[Dr. Tom Kawula](#) will be leading a panel of graduate students including [Dr. Eric Osoro](#) as they talk about the future of global health research.

Details will be added [online](#) as they are confirmed.

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Thank you for helping leverage this day to create more awareness for this cause.

## Beyond Vaccination



[Dr. Thumbi Mwangi](#) of Rabies Free Kenya is working alongside other researchers to examine the supply chain of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis treatment and how challenges in this area can impact the goal of eliminating human death from rabies. He and his colleagues published their findings in [ScienceDirect](#) in July.

Here are a few key points from their research:

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dog-mediated rabies in Kenya by 2030.

- The group looked at the supply chain logistics for PEP compared to the system used for routine vaccines. The results showed a large variability in availability.
- The supply of vaccines from the national to the sub-national level is mainly through two governmental agencies and a private agency. Since government decentralization, the National Vaccine and Immunization Program has remained a main supplier of routine vaccines, playing a lesser role in the supply of the rabies biologicals.
- Adoption of dose-saving intradermal route for PEP administration, reduction of PEP costs to patients and placing rabies vaccines within the routine vaccines supply and logistics system would significantly improve PEP availability and accessibility.

## Social Media

Check out the most popular posts on social media. You can share them too!

### Facebook

**Rabies Free Africa**  
August 1 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

August is #NationalImmunizationAwarenessMonth. Since 2005, our team has received 1.5 million doses of #rabies vaccine from @MSDAnimalHealth. We, along with our partners, vaccinate dogs to save human and animal lives. <http://bit.ly/31aWneN>

**Eliminate Rabies Campaign**  
GLOBAL IMPACT

**United States**  
54 veterinary clinics support the program in the U.S.  
17 partners support

**Tanzania**  
WSU and its partners vaccinated 120,000 dogs  
Visited 220 villages  
1.5 million vaccines administered since 2005

**Kenya**  
WSU and its partners

### Twitter

**Tweet**

**Rabies Free Africa**  
@RabiesFreeAFR

The good news is that rabies is entirely preventable with vaccines. Bad news is it still kills about 60,000 people a year with 40% of those deaths being children under 15. That is why it's so important we work to eliminate the disease. [#RallyAgainstRabies](#) [#EndRabiesNow](#) [#ZeroBy30](#)

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#### Our mailing address is:

WSU Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health  
PO Box 647090  
Pullman, WA 99164

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