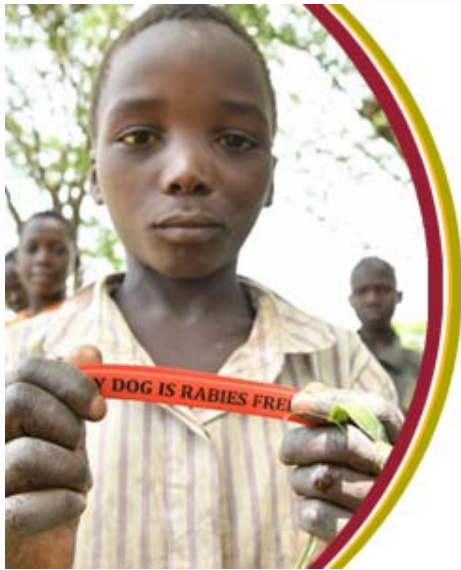


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Rabies Free Africa Newsletter | April 2020

Kenya, Tanzania rabies teams halting mass dog vaccinations

The Rabies Free Africa programs in Kenya and Tanzania have temporarily stopped their mass dog vaccination campaigns to protect our teams in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will let you know once it is safe for them to

Rabies In The News

[Raising awareness may help prevent rabies deaths](#)

[Researchers use App in the fight against rabies](#)

[New app rollout easing fight against rabies in Mara](#)

[Region](#)

begin working in the field again. During this time, research is focused on analysis of the data previously collected.

The WSU Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health team in Kenya is working in collaboration with the CDC, the Kenya Medical Research Institute, and the Kenya Ministry of Health in multiple urban and rural sites to detect and diagnose COVID-19 patients.

The ongoing collaboration on influenza and causes of acute febrile illness in Kenyan communities provided the capacity to rapidly address the spread of coronavirus in the country. The team of epidemiologists, physicians, nurses, and laboratory technologists will work with the Kenya healthcare system to help keep the community safe.

Welcome New Partners



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

Pioneer Partner Spotlight





Next Steps for Rabies in Kenya

Washington State University's rabies researchers in Kenya aren't just waiting for the dogs to come to them.

They are tracking the true incidence of rabid dog bites to ensure the nation knows how many people are bitten annually and how many life-saving post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatments to have on hand.

It's part of a three-prong approach by the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health to reduce human deaths by rabies while understanding the virus' magnitude in the African nation. The project is in collaboration with the Kenyan government.



This year we are featuring the clinics that helped get our Rabies Free Africa program off the ground! Introducing SouthCare Animal Medical Center.

Greg Benoit, DVM, a 1990 Cougar alumnus and owner of the hospital, joined Rabies Free Africa in January 2017. The clinic has donated \$1 for every rabies vaccination they've administered since.

"When WSU's Dr. Guy Palmer first visited with me about the number of human deaths, mostly children, due to rabies I was shocked." Dr. Benoit

“We don’t know about many of the individuals who are bitten and who would require PEP and do not receive it. This has two impacts relative to rabies elimination,” Guy Palmer, chair of WSU’s Global Health Kenya program, said. “First, and most critically, these individuals do not receive the PEP that is needed and many may die. Second, at a policy level, we underestimate the number of bite victims, the PEP demand, and the true impact of rabies as a cause of death.”

According to the World Health Organization, the virus kills an estimated 59,000 people annually, with 95 percent of those deaths occurring in Africa and Asia. Many of those deaths are children.

To determine the number of PEP treatments needed and how many people are infected annually, the project includes three data collection arms: bite victims who visit a health clinic and report the incident, visits to households where families are asked if anyone has been bitten, and a toll-free number to county residents to report dog bites.

Palmer said by collecting data from all three arms of the project people who may have needed PEP don’t slip through the cracks, noting that the financial resources of the family is a key reason that many do not immediately report the suspected rabid dog bite and seek treatment.

said. "A completely preventable disease that we have known how to prevent since the 1880's. It definitely struck a chord with me and our entire staff, this was a mission we all could get behind. It is also a cause that resonates with our clients."

[Become a Partner](#)

[Give to Rabies Free Africa](#)

“By integrating these three data sources and analyzing them statistically, we will be able to estimate the fraction of people missed outside of health clinics and learn how to reach them.” Palmer said. “We have to know how prevalent rabies transmission is before we can eliminate it. This work will do that.”

World Immunization Week is April 24-30



World Immunization Week – celebrated the last week of April every year – is almost here! The week, declared by the World Health Organization, aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. This year the WHO is honoring the people who develop, deliver and receive vaccines. We would like to take this time to commend our researchers in Kenya

and Tanzania working to save lives by stopping the spread of the rabies virus as well as all of those veterinarians doing their part!

We sent an overview of the impact of our work in Africa in the mail to our supporting veterinary clinics in the mail. You should have received it last week. It can also be found [online](#). If you would like an additional printed copy, let us know.

Social Highlights

Twitter

Top Tweet earned 1,590 impressions

This year we would like to recognize clinics that helped get our program off the ground! One of those first clinics was McMonigle Veterinary Hospital of Kent, Washington. Rob McMonigle, DVM, is a 1998 Cougar DVM alumnus and owner of the hospital! [@McMonigleVet](#) [#EliminateRabies](#)
pic.twitter.com/ti1Sbe4AcU




Facebook

Rabies Free Africa
Published by Hootsuite [?] - March 13 at 8:15 AM

Developers from PIP The Pet Recognition Company recently visited northern Tanzania to help field researchers navigate their application that is being used in rabies vaccination efforts. The app, which is being tested in a series of field trials, may allow researchers to determine if a dog has been vaccinated for the rabies virus by using facial recognition technology.

Read the full story: <https://news.wsu.edu/.../facial-recognition-next-step-fight-.../>

A photograph showing two men and a dog in an outdoor setting. One man, wearing a red t-shirt, is holding a smartphone and looking at the screen. Another man, wearing a red hat and a plaid shirt, is standing next to him. A small dog is sitting on the ground in front of them. The background shows a wooden fence and some trees.

Top Tweet earned 1,024 impressions

This year rabies vaccination trials are taking place in the Mara Region of Tanzania! Throughout the year, our Rabies Free Tanzania team vaccinates an average of 300 dogs per day! [#EliminateRabies](https://twitter.com/da5rma30QF) pic.twitter.com/da5rma30QF



Rabies Free Kenya Published by Josh Babcock [?] · March 11 at 8:00 AM · Like Page

2020 means we have 10 years to meet the World Health Organization (WHO) goal to eliminate rabies by 2030. With Thumbi Mwangi leading our program, we are dedicated to the effort. #endrabiesnow



Quick Links

[Clinic Toolkit](#) | [Rabies FAQ](#) | [Veterinary Clinic Partners](#) | [News](#)

[Rabies Free Africa](#) | [Why Partner](#)



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