



BE A RABIES HERO!

Partnering Ideas for the Rabies Hero Campaign

Access to regular human and veterinary healthcare has been diminished during the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health agencies are communicating about the need to update recommended vaccines. This is relevant for human and veterinary healthcare. Through partnerships, the veterinary community can extend our reach to prevent outbreaks of rabies, parvovirus, distemper, FVRCP, and other diseases. We encourage every Rabies Hero partner to consider if a partnership makes sense for their vaccination clinic. Veterinary hospitals should adhere to all state and local guidelines for social distancing, wearing masks and other recommendations to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

ANIMAL SHELTERS

Many animal shelters have existing programs for free or reduced cost vaccinations for qualified low-income individuals. A combined program for World Rabies Day could increase rabies vaccinations in your community for low-income individuals with pets. Keep in mind that with extended unemployment due to COVID-19 there are more people who are financially struggling. Options like this can result in pets staying with owners - ultimately returning to regular veterinary hospitals once people's employment stabilizes - instead of being relinquished to shelters.

LOCAL VETERINARY HOSPITALS

In some communities it could be beneficial for several local veterinary hospitals to work in alignment to promote the Rabies Hero campaign to bring clients back to the clinics and increase vaccination rates. Coordination can happen through local VMAs, Chambers of Commerce, or other grassroots efforts to align care to meet this public health need.

MAKE IT A ONE HEALTH CLINIC

One Health Clinics combine human and veterinary care. We encourage Rabies Hero partners to contact the local public health agency to explore if there is an option for offering a human health option – especially for off-site clinics or those that are focused on one-day or one weekend. Human health options that may align well are flu shots or COVID-19 tests. There are a lot of regulations on how human healthcare can be offered, so working with a public health agency or local community healthcare center is the best option as they will make sure all federal, state, and local laws are followed.



Paul G. Allen School
for Global Animal Health
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Join the movement to eliminate human death
from canine rabies by 2030.
www.RabiesFreeAfrica.org