



# RABIES IN WEST AFRICA

## ***“Harmonizing Stakeholders & Tools for the Prevention & Control of Rabies”***

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### **REPORT ON WORLD RABIES DAY, KPONE KATAMANSO SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Our intentions for 2021 were to continue our rabies efforts in Northern Ghana however, due to COVID 19 and the lack of sponsorships, we decided to look more locally at areas that are rabies endemic and have had recent rabies cases.

On investigating our local areas, one area that stood was the Kpone Katamanso Municipality.

According to Ghana Health Services and the Municipal Veterinary department, the municipality experienced the following number of dog bite cases which resulted in numerous rabies positive victims.

2018 – 271

2019 – 289

2020 - 243

2021 till August – 135

The Kpone Katamanso Municipal Assembly (KKMA) was contacted and we were welcomed with open arms and they were eager to participate and host World Rabies Day 2021.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

##### **1. Mass Vaccinations**

Due to the number of dog bites and confirmed rabies cases, the KKMA commenced vaccinations in the municipality September 5 and continued till the end of September. There was a nominal charge of GHS5.00 per animal vaccinated and on WRD September 28, it was free throughout the municipality. RIWAG provided 2,000 vaccines donated by ZOETIS and Multivet, for the occasion.

##### **2. World Rabies Day, September 28**

###### **a) Students Rabies Awareness March**

At 9:00am, 50 students and accompanying RIWAG members and stakeholders started an awareness march through the main roads of Kpone. Students carried banners and placards about rabies and

handed out educational flyers to the public encountered along the route. They were led by a brass band with police escort for their protection while on the public roads.

b) WRD Durbar

A durbar was held in the forecourt of the KKMA and commenced at 10:30am. To highlight the event, the drama class of a local high school presented a skit on a person bitten by a rabid dog and the events that occur after being bitten.

The theme of Rabies: Facts not Fear, was highlighted throughout the event as educational awareness will dispel all the fears commonly known and associated with rabies.

Speakers included:

The Municipal Chief Executive, the Chairperson for the event, RIWA-GH, Veterinary Services, Regional and Municipal Veterinarians, Ghana Health Services, FAO, WHO, Private Veterinary Association, GVMA, VEMTAG, Breakthrough Action, Dog Breeder's Association.

Refreshments provided by RIWAG followed the closing of the event.

c) Media

Several media were present to cover the event and subsequent articles have been published and TV3 has presented a 3 minute on air summary of the event.

## SUMMARY

The WRD event was a huge success with emphasis on education and awareness and the theme Rabies: Facts not Fear. The media coverage has been good with several articles and TV coverage.

As rabies is endemic in the KK District, the vaccinations have been well received and of our 2,000 doses to date they have vaccinated... Dogs – 1451 Cats- 50 Monkeys – 5 and the exercise is still ongoing.

By close of October, we shall have a grand total of vaccinated animals to share with our stakeholders.

Note we have over one hundred pictures plus multiple videos of the event.



Dr. Richard Suu-Ire  
RIWA Chairman



Russell H. Coombs  
Organizing Secretary

## SELECTED PICTURES FROM THE WRD CELEBRATION



Stakeholders & Dignitaries

