

Q&A from the webinar attendees

“RABIES CONTROL STRATEGIES IN ASIA”

By Dr. Pebi Purwosuseno

Dr. Weerapong Thanapongtharm

Prof. Dr. Tin Ngwe

1. The question to Dr. Pebi, from Indonesia, how you apply the cold chain management for Rabies Control?

Answer we develop a cold chain standard for vaccine delivery from the factory to the local vet office. for the vaccinator team with have a training program built in the vaccination campaign. the issues with cold chain is when we are conducting vaccination in a remote area. the well trained vet officer will understand how manage this by providing more ice or ice substitute, but this will make things harder for them.

2. To Dr Pebi, what percentage of dogs shows 'dumb rabies'? Also what percentage of dogs which are vaccinated come down with rabies (incubating when vaccinated)

Answer we don't have specific types of data concerning type of rabies on our reporting system. But, from our field experience, the number is very low. We have some report about this type in cat. Concerning "Vaccination failure" the data is very low, most of the case come from unvaccinated animal/dog. That's why the target is to increase vaccination coverage.

3. To Dr. Pebi: For rabies vaccination program in animals, is availability of rabies vaccine become an obstruction issue in rabies elimination program so far?

Answer Rabies vaccine availability is one of the issue that we face in Indonesia. in the roadmap we have calculate minimum number of vaccines needed to conduct the vaccination program in Indonesia, we will use this as a basis for our advocacy to get more support and resources

4. To Dr.Purwo Sueno, Indonesia. Please could you give me more info about working on stray dogs with the army program in your community engagement. It is very interesting as we can apply it with our work as NGO

Answer We engage army and police originated from the village or work at the village. So, beside to get support from the villager, we also will have a continuous data and information from the village. We also work with the community in other area using a local wisdom and cultural approach in applying the communication.

5. For the Rabies control strategies in Myanmar, it seems to be very efficient by the Law and implementation, in the view of speaker, what do you think that which is the main problem at this moment?

Answer The public awareness of the importance of controlling stray dog populations without causing unnecessary or avoidable animal suffering is very critical issue in Myanmar.

6. To Dr.Pebi: What are the programs in Kalimantan Utara employed to maintain it as free rabies zone

Answer Not all area in North Kalimantan is free from rabies. There are several islands declared free after proven by continuous surveillance program. To maintain freedom, the most important part is to understand the risk of incursion and manage that risk. one of the risk management option is to make sure dogs in the free area vaccinated to prevent infection. Other important option is to manage the movement control base on the result of risk assessment/analysis.