



Program Dharma: THE FACTS

THE PROGRAM

Program Dharma is a world-first pilot program in 28 banjars (sub villages) within 3 semi-urban communities in Sanur, Bali, where it is reducing the threat of rabies in humans and dogs through an original and sustained community-supported effort. It is a community outreach / One Health* program to eradicate rabies. The pilot will demonstrate the viability of Program Dharma for application in Bali's 700 villages.

*One Health unites human and veterinary approaches for the health and welfare of both humans and animals.

PARTNERS

Program Dharma is an innovative public sector / NGO partnership between:

- Udayana University, Department of Public Health & Faculty of Veterinary Science
- Yayasan Bali Animal Welfare Association (BAWA)
- International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)
- Yayasan Kerti Praja (YKP)

AIMS

- To empower Balinese banjars to understand and address concerns regarding dog health (with a focus on rabies) and community health.
- To address concerns associated with roaming dogs and disease incidence.
- To improve compliance with canine rabies vaccination in banjars.
- To take an evidence-based approach to rabies control and eradication, including animal welfare education.
- Ultimately to enable implementation of more effective public health strategies to combat zoonotic diseases.

OBJECTIVES

- To contribute to the achievement of a rabies-free status for Bali.
- To stimulate new ways of thinking and find new pathways for action for the Bali government, policy-makers, scientists and other stakeholders.
- To develop and propose a strategy within a One Health framework that is relevant and responsive to contemporary social and cultural development in Bali.
- To gain government recognition that humane and sustainable solutions based on a One Health approach and PLA principles is effective for rabies control and improved animal welfare.
- For people in participating villages and banjars to apply Program Dharma principles to animal health and welfare and to achieve adequate vaccination coverage to preclude perceived need for ineffective culling.

HISTORY

Program Dharma commenced in April 2016 in 28 semi-urban communities (banjars) in Sanur, Bali, after more than 12 months of program development, planning and training by the 3 partners. It draws on the successful pilot work of BAWA and subsequent work* of BAWA with government to reduce the incidence of rabies in humans and dogs following the 2008 outbreak of the disease in Bali.

* Bali Humane Rabies Eradication program in 2011

Program Dharma benefits from the successful PLA** work of BAWA & IFAW in Gianyar, Bali 2011 to 2016 which has:

- Improved animal health.
- Cultivated community responsibility for animal health.
- Generated communities that are safer and healthier for animals and humans.

** Participate. Learn. Act (PLA): A community-based pilot program for animal welfare.

ACTIVITIES

STUDY: The program's field team of new graduates from Udayana's veterinary and public health faculties uses cutting-edge technology to produce a dog population study. The team establishes numbers of dogs in a community and numbers of vaccinations needed.

TARGET: Vaccination of minimum 70% of dog population to achieve herd immunity to rabies.

GOVERNMENT: Animal health representatives of the Bali Provincial Government administer rabies vaccinations.

STERILISATION: BAWA provides veterinarians & other animal welfare specialists to sterilise & provide basic preventative veterinary care.

EDUCATION: BAWA and Udayana representatives educate owners on rabies control and better animal welfare.

DATA: IFAW oversees collection, compilation and assessment of complete records.

COMMUNITY: Community leaders help select residents for training as the local point of contact for animal welfare issues and to liaise with dog-owners and public health and animal health specialists. Communities are monitored, guided and trained.

CONTINUITY: Trained village leads continue to monitor, educate and provide assistance to dogs and dog owners in their communities, keeping their homes safe from rabies.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Village responsibility and respect for dogs in communities to ensure safe and healthy dogs which helps to keep families and communities safe and healthy too.
- Elimination of rabies and rabies-related culling in targeted villages.
- Improve the health and welfare of the dogs by reducing the production of unwanted puppies, addressing health and welfare issues associated with inappropriate confinement and inadequate veterinary care.
- Healthy dogs in communities which provide good care for them, regardless of their ownership status.
- Decrease in dog bites and need for human rabies vaccines.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Program Dharma has proven that successful rabies management must target both dogs and their owners. Community engagement in villages and banjars is the key. Specifically Program Dharma demonstrates that a robust, tightly-controlled and documented schedule of community education and practical assistance, including vaccination and dog population stability, will stop the spread of rabies in humans and dogs.

Achieved:

- Census: More than 5500 dogs in 3 villages
- One on One Education: More than 2000 dog owners
- Community Health Days: 29, including 220 sterilisations
- Vaccination: More than 800 dogs.

Results:

- Improved vaccination coverage in Sanur Kaja village from 61.5% at July 2016 to 81.2% at March 2017
- Zero suspected cases of rabies in the 3 Program Dharma villages
- Improved dog health. eg in Sanur Kaja the 13% of dogs that were very thin or emaciated has reduced to 4%
- Fewer dogs on the streets.

FUTURE

All partners are committed to continuing this important program towards rabies eradication and better animal welfare in Bali. Extent of expansion and therefore success would hinge on further support and funding. Planning is in progress.

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