



MEDIA RELEASE

28 BANJARS EMBRACE NEW PROGRAM FOR RABIES CONTROL

24 March 2017 DENPASAR, Bali: Program Dharma, an innovative partnership to control and eradicate the deadly rabies disease which has troubled Bali since 2008, was officially launched today. The pilot program, which is reducing the threat of rabies in humans and in dogs in 28 banjars (sub-villages) within 3 semi-urban communities in Sanur, is a 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)

Program Dharma focuses on community outreach & empowerment and One Health principles to eradicate rabies. It employs cutting-edge technology and data analysis. Program Dharma is proving that community education & engagement plus robust vaccination schedules, to achieve a minimum 70% vaccination of dogs in any population, will stop the spread of rabies. The program is spearheaded by Udayana Public Health head Prof. Dr. Dewa Nyoman Wirawan, MPH.

“The Program Dharma team has shown that successful rabies intervention must target both dogs and their owners,” said Prof. Wirawan. “Our pilot program is keeping communities safe by involving community leaders and other residents who are trained as liaison officers to educate, monitor and guide within their communities; and to enable good communications and reporting to other stakeholders.

“In a nutshell, the keys to success are inclusiveness and thoroughness,” said Prof Wirawan. Program Dharma was fortunate to have government involvement in vaccinating animals against rabies and Bali was privileged to have the international involvement of IFAW and the rabies expertise of BAWA, he said.

“Program Dharma is a community-supported effort to help Bali address the threat of rabies by supporting good animal care, which includes rabies vaccines,” said Kate Natrass Atema, IFAW Program Director Companion Animals. “This pilot project in three Sanur villages has demonstrated its viability and we are looking to continued work with all partners to expand the program in the future.”

The rabies control pilot aims to demonstrate the viability of Program Dharma principles and procedures for application in Bali’s 700 villages.

“Program Dharma is most certainly an extremely positive and potentially effective means for rabies control & eradication in Bali,” said BAWA director Janice Girardi. “It works. It’s achievable throughout Bali and deserves serious consideration.”

Program Dharma supports BAWA’s vision for all traditional Bali communities as natural sanctuaries for animals.

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.

MORE INFORMATION: Please see Program Dharma: The Facts.

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About Udayana University Public Health Department

Udayana's Public Health Department (MIKM) is a centre of education and research excellence. It uses science and technology to produce public health professionals and to contribute to the sustainable development of public health through a "Tri Dharma" college focus on education, research and community service.

About IFAW

Founded in 1969, IFAW rescues and protects animals around the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals, and advocates for the protection of wildlife and habitats. For more information, visit www.ifaw.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Photos are available at www.ifawimages.com

About Yayasan BAWA

BAWA relieves animals suffering and works for a better future for all animals in Bali and beyond. Key activities are education and advocacy, rescue, vet care, disease control, adoption, sterilisation and streetfeeding. A key focus is Bali's Heritage Dog – the island's genetically unique street dog that is under threat. Information: www.bawabali.com

About Yayasan Kerti Praja

YKP was established in 1992 to work with the community in health promotion, early diseases detection and prompt treatment, clinical services, rehabilitation, other community development and research. In conjunction with these missions, Kerti Praja serves as a resource and consultant for similar organisations involved in primary health care and research.