



From Rabies to Readiness: Community Surveillance for One Health

Date: Morning / lunch, Tuesday 7 April 2026, 90 minutes moderated, in person event with livestream

Venue: Lyon Convention Centre integrated into One Health Summit high level preparation

Purpose

To **shape One Health Summit outcomes** by positioning the **elimination of human rabies deaths from dog bites by 2030 as a shared global goal**, and establishing community surveillance as the practical mechanism linking human, animal & environmental health.

Rabies as a conduit for **community-based surveillance to serve as a scalable One Health platform** for the early detection, prevention, and response to **other priority zoonotic diseases**.

This side event positions **rabies as a proven entry point for One Health**, showing how the same surveillance systems *were* adapted to address Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and could be adapted to address other high-risk zoonoses such as **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**—enhancing preparedness for future outbreaks and pandemics especially those emanating in difficult to reach settings.

Rationale

Rabies is one of the clearest, most solvable One Health challenges. It is invariably fatal once symptoms appear, yet entirely preventable.

Over **99% of human rabies deaths result from dog bites**, and more than **40% of victims are children**. Countries that have made sustained progress towards elimination have done so by strengthening **community-level surveillance**: enabling rapid reporting of bites, timely referral for post-exposure prophylaxis, strategic dog vaccination and real-time data sharing between human and animal health systems. This **community interface is what operationalises One Health in practice**.

Objectives

Using rabies as a case study, the event will highlight how **strengthened community surveillance**:

- Detects zoonotic threats early at the human–animal interface.
- Links communities, human and animal health systems into a single operational framework.
- Enables **early warning, targeted response and risk containment** through effective surveillance to enable strategic interventions and resourceful use of human and animal biologicals including oral rabies vaccine.
- Provides a **cost-effective, way to measure effective governance and scale One Health platform** beyond a single disease.

Expected Outcomes

- Commitment to strengthen **community surveillance as a foundational One Health infrastructure**.
- Political and technical alignment around **eliminating human rabies from dog bites by 2030**.
- Momentum to **adapt rabies surveillance platforms** for other priority zoonoses.
- Strengthened collaboration across human health, animal health and development partners.



Invitations will be extended to **head of delegation**. Event will be choreographed into small moderated fireside discussions enabling leaders to participate for short, tailored segments.

PART 1: Scene-Setting and narrative thread (5 min)

- Frame rabies as a **preventable cause of child death**.
- Introduce community surveillance as the **operational heart of One Health**.
- Set the ambition: **rabies as the entry point for broader zoonotic preparedness**.
- **No single sector can succeed alone**; surveillance connects them.
- Community surveillance as a **national asset**, not a vertical programme.

PART 2: Making One Health operational: Country Leadership Perspectives (25 min including Q&A)

Show how community surveillance functions in practice, using rabies as the case study that demonstrates real-world integration of human health, animal health, and data systems.

Contributors: Endemic and non-endemic countries

PART 3: Multilateral Leadership: Coordinated interventions emphasising alignment (25 mins including Q&A):

Contributors

- **World Health Organization** – Human health impact, rabies elimination roadmap, and surveillance as prevention.
- **World Organisation for Animal Health** – Dog vaccination, animal surveillance, and veterinary systems, role of rabies vaccine bank.
- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** – One Health coordination and zoonotic risk reduction.
- **Gavi – The Vaccine Alliance**- Supporting endemic countries with rabies post exposure vaccine.
- **UNICEF** – Community engagement, education for children at risk, vaccine access and distribution.

PART 4: Scaling Beyond Rabies: Evidence, Data & Supply Systems (25 mins including Q&A)

From a single disease to systemic resilience demonstrating how rabies surveillance platforms can be adapted to detect and respond to other zoonotic threats, strengthening global health security and pandemic preparedness. Emphasis on early warning at the human–animal interface.

Contributors:

- **Institut Pasteur** – Surveillance science and laboratory confirmation.
- **International Alliance for Biological Standardization (IABS)** – Standards, evidence, and global learning.
- **Representative(s) from animal and human rabies vaccine manufacturers**

PART 5: Closing Reflections & Call to Action for One Health Summit (5 min)

Strengthening community surveillance through rabies elimination—aiming to **end human deaths from dog bites by 2030**—demonstrates a **proven, scalable One Health approach that can be deployed to other**



International Alliance for
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priority zoonotic diseases. Achieving this requires sustained political commitment and cross-sector collaboration, with community surveillance recognised and financed as a key shared One Health infrastructure.



Food and Agriculture
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World Health
Organization



World Organisation
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Founded as OIE