

World Rabies Day Webinar- Celebrating action to maintain momentum



Rabies in Iran: the situation and way forward post-COVID

WORLD RABIES DAY MAP – ZOOM TO MIDDLE EAST : ACTION IN IRAN



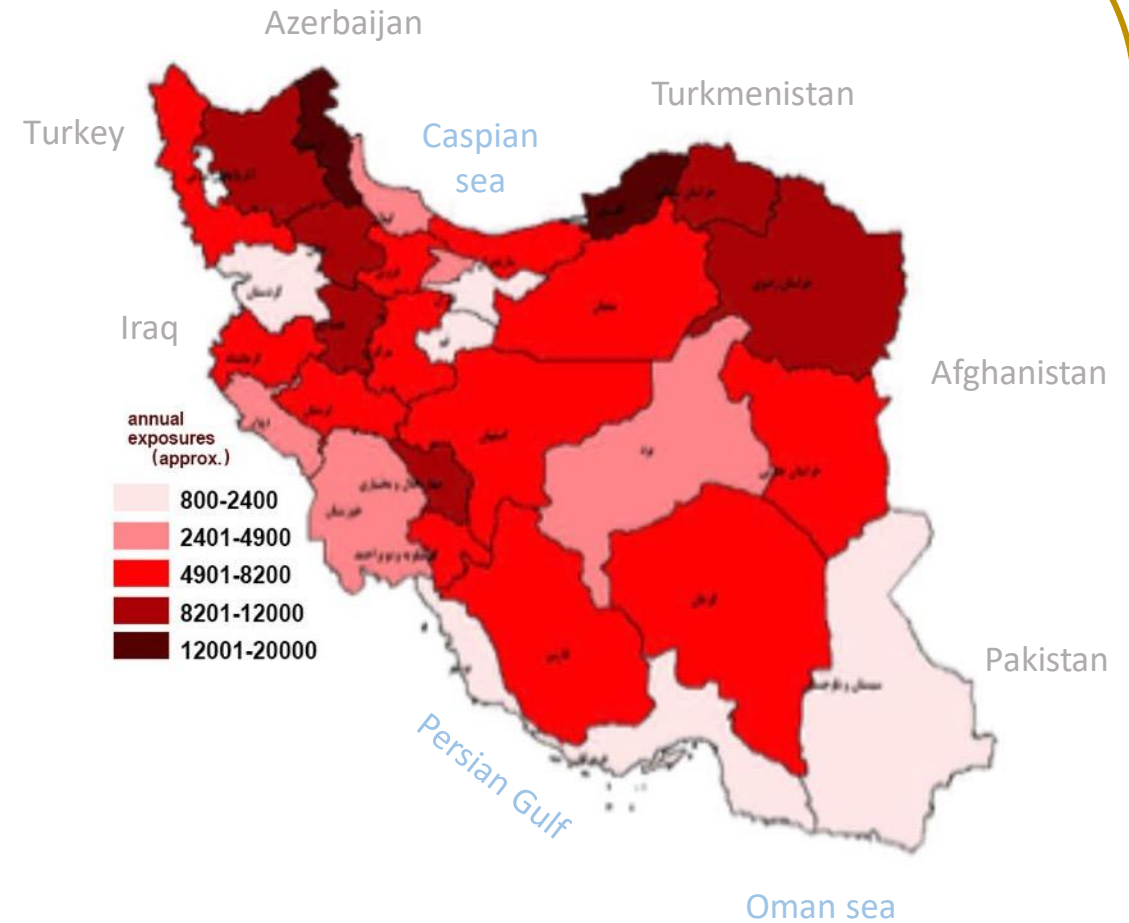
Pasteur Institute of Iran

Monday 6 September 2021

Rabies situation in Iran*

- Located in the Middle East region
- All provinces are contaminated with rabies
- Suspected bites and PEP permanently increasing; less than 10 thousands in 1970's to **234,161** in 2019
- Human victims kept between 2 to 10

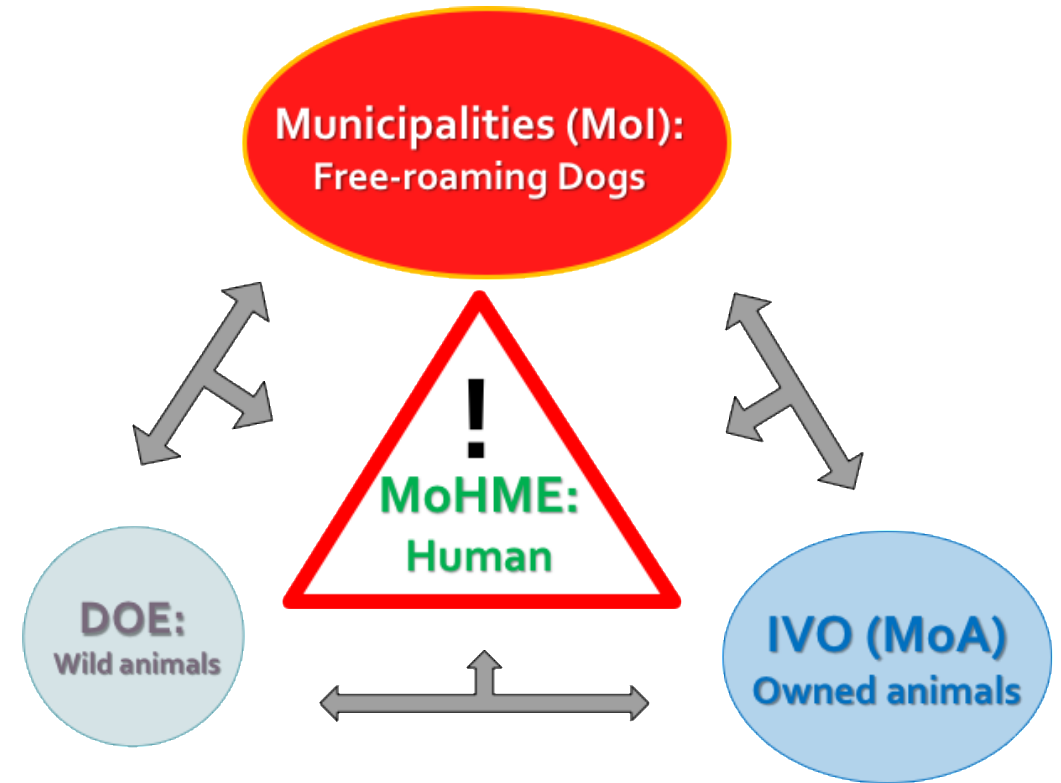
(Source: MOHME)



*Gholami A, Fayaz A, Farahtaj F. Rabies in Iran: Past, Present and Future. JoMMID. 2014; 2 (1) :1-10; A Perspective on Rabies in the Middle East-Beyond Neglect, H Bannazadeh Baghi, F Alinezhad, I Kuzmin, CE Rupprecht, Veterinary sciences, 2018, 5 (3)

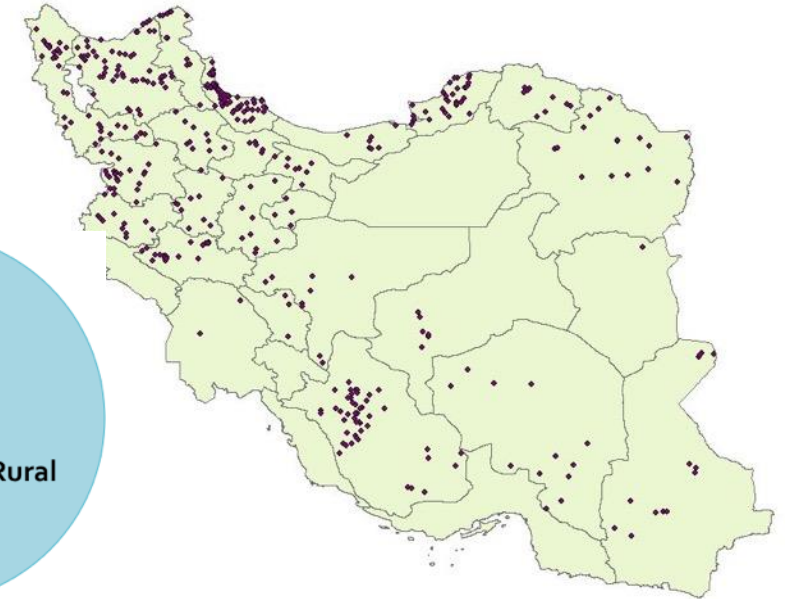
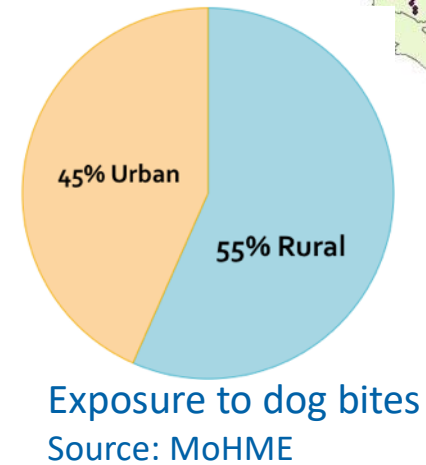
Who is in charge for rabies management/control? (1)

- MOHME with **700** health centers in 31 provinces, working **24/7**
- Iranian CDC manages **health centers**, connected through a **network of Medical Universities**
- Over flow from each domain to the other and finally to MoHME as the last line of defense*.



Who is in charge for rabies management/control? (2)

- **IVO:** Policy and goal definition, planning and implementation.
- **Outbreak operation** wherever a rabid animal is reported (Figure).
- Estimated 1.2 M of **shepherd/guard** dogs
 - Annual vaccination program covers almost one-third (453577 in 2020)
- Vaccination of **pet animals** through private clinics with IVO supervision.



Locations of animal rabies detection in Iran (2020)
(Map courtesy of Dr NikKhah, IVO)

Iran and the World Rabies Day

- Celebrating WRD since 2007
- Invite stakeholders and policy makers
- Symposiums and Workshops
- Publishing scientific reports
- Poster, booklet, flier, planner distribution
- Media and Social activities, such as meetings and free pet vaccination programs



Topics discussed on the occasion of the WRD

- Advocacy with influence on the rabies management*
- Inter-sectoral collaboration, coordination, cooperation
- Orientation toward rabies elimination since 2014 (the blueprint for rabies)
- Drafting the “Strategic Plan for Rabies Elimination in Iran” in 2014, with the major contribution and support of the Iranian CDC (MoHME)



An important achievement:

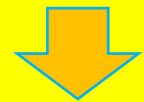
Rabies
Expert
Committee



Rabies
Elimination
Committee



*Introducing
the
committee*



*fostering
the rabies
elimination
mission*

Some areas of activity for the elimination committee

- Advocacy
 - Improving sectors contribution (e.g; DOE)#
 - Engaging other partner: MoEdu, legislators, Police, NGOs
- Coordination
 - Frequent meetings to improve national protocols
 - Sharing of data, Finding gaps (bi- or multi-lateral)
 - Cooperative response to outbreaks/threats
- Capacity improvement
 - Active surveillance and monitoring
 - Joint re-training of sector employees
- Improving inter-sector collaboration
 - Toward rabies elimination goal

World Rabies Day: post-COVID era

- Progressive cooperation; toward Zero-by-30
- Engaging higher authorities in agreed plans
- Model for zoonosis control
- Rabies vaccine production based on COVID vaccine infrastructures
- Common platform for advocacy, awareness, and education

Acknowledgement

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