World Rabies Day: The creation of a global movement against rabies

World Rabies Day webinar: Celebrating action to maintain momentum

Dr Terence Scott
Global Alliance for Rabies Control
History of World Rabies Day
“Raise awareness and give a voice to the silent victims of rabies and communities that continue to live at risk of rabies.”
15 Years of raising the profile of rabies

- **Raise global awareness** about rabies and how to stop the disease
- **Educate** people in rabies-endemic countries, especially children and health professionals
- **Mobilize resources** to support local rabies prevention programs
Importance of the community

“Working Together to Make Rabies History!” – Deborah Briggs, Executive Director (G)ARC, 2007

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” – African proverb highlighted by Louis Nel, Executive Director GARC, 2015
Why September 28?

- First celebrated on Sept 8 to announce the elimination of dog-mediated rabies in the USA through mass dog vaccination.

- In 2008, it was changed to September 28 and has been celebrated on that day since.
1st WRD 2007

74 countries involved

600 000 animals vaccinated

393 000 people directly involved

54 million people reached
World Rabies Day: Building global momentum

• ~3000 events registered to date
• Average of 200 events each year
• Since 2016, average 240 events each year.
• More than 116 countries participating
Annual theme
World Rabies Day 2021
Why this theme?

• **Fear:**
  - Fear of rabies
  - Fear (a symptom of rabies)
  - Fear caused by misconception and fake news

• We can **eliminate this fear from rabies with facts:**
  - Vaccinate your animals against rabies
  - Seek medical treatment after an exposure
  - Share good data about the disease situation
World Rabies Day 2021
Register your World Rabies Day event now