

PERCEIVED COMMUNITY NEEDS

SUPPORTING IMPROVED ANIMAL CARE BEHAVIORS

IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANIMAL CARE

“ We have never had the opportunity to get animal health workers coming to our community to sensitize us on rabies. If government send them in the community we shall be very appreciative in the sense they can teach us the preventive measure or places to report if there is a dog bite.”



EASY ACCESS TO TRAINED AHWS

“ I think we need to invite professionals who really know how to care for animals who can help us in caring for the animals, it could be on a monthly basis, or bi-weekly. We should not wait for them to become sick, rather to prevent them from becoming sick. ”



REGULATIONS FOR ANIMAL OWNERSHIP

Informants had stringent suggestions regarding animal care and roaming animals, including animal registrations, vaccination cards for animals, dog tags, by-laws for controlling animals, with fines for offenders.

“ To prevent the roaming of dogs in the community there should be by-laws to cover the management and caring of these dogs. Owners should be fined if they refuse to care for their animals. ”



AVAILABILITY OF MEDICINES & VACCINES

“ Even the goat and the sheep we need medication for them, like they have select one guy in the community that should be treating the animals but if does not have the medication, how can he do it? ”



RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RABIES, RISK FACTORS, SYMPTOMS AND REPORTING

Community-based education and information for community members and animal health workers. Increase knowledge about rabies through community-based interventions that utilize, interpersonal communication and pictorial communication ads.

EASY ACCESS TO AND REGULAR VISITS FROM TRAINED AHWS

Increase number of communities with a key group of animal health workers living in the community. Provide training to CHWs and AHW on interpersonal communication and job aids to deliver community level interventions.

INTEGRATED REPORTING BETWEEN HUMAN AND AHWS

For greater awareness of total reports, a system for comprehensive follow-up and documentation of rabies cases.

ANIMAL CARE AND RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

Develop communication aids for distribution through a variety of channels to raise awareness of animal care practices and services including: vaccinations, provision of sterilization services, and basic dog health care.

INTERSECTIONAL COLLABORATION

Collaboration between government workers and community-level experts who understand the local dog population, the dynamics around animal ownership, local demographics, and attitudes of community members towards dogs, may provide contextual information as an important basis for a tailored package of interventions for long-term management of the dog population and rabies.