

research was to explore the perceptions of the local Grenadian public about their knowledge towards certain zoonotic diseases. In Grenada, there are known reservoirs for zoonotic diseases in the form of rabies from stray dogs and mongoose. Rabies is a fatal viral disease that infects the brain and spinal cord in mammals including humans. The virus is transmitted through the saliva of a rabid animal, usually by a bite. The study population comprised adults, non-health professional, Grenadian citizens in the parish of St. George. A total of 450 participants comprised the sample base for the collected data. Rabies was correctly identified as being caused by a virus among 28.4% of the sample population. Rabies as obtained from the bite of an infected animal was correctly identified by 434 (96.4%) of participants. Knowledge of the mongoose as the animal reservoir of Rabies in Grenada was correctly recognized by 434 (96.4%) of the participants. Rabies prevention, requiring vaccination of animals, was identified by 339 (75.3%) of the study population. For Rabies, 20 (4.4%) of the population selected nervous reactions as the associated symptom.

### PT.030 RABIES ANTIGEN SPREAD AMONGST APPARENTLY HEALTHY DOGS IN NIGERIA: A REVIEW

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Rabies with a timeline history of over 2300 years BC is 100% preventable. Yet over 55,000 people are reported dead annually due to rabies. Most of the deaths are in the developing countries, India and Africa. In Nigeria, the first officially documented report of human rabies was in 1912 and that of canine rabies was in 1925. The long history of rabies and the evidences of its endemicity have been found in all native dialects in Nigeria that described only the violent rabies. Researchers over the years have reported the presence of rabies virus antibodies in over 15.93 to 30.7% of unvaccinated dogs and humans respectively, in south western part of Nigeria. Of recent, researchers in Nigerian Universities and Research Institutes are experiencing and reporting cases of the presence of rabies virus antigen in the brains of apparently healthy dogs and even in the wild life across the country. Some studies of the prevalence of rabies antigens in the brain and saliva of apparently healthy dogs slaughtered for human consumption in Nigeria; revealed a 28% consumed dogs in N/west, 31% – 44% from N/east and 24% from N/central tested positive for rabies antigen in their brain. Similarly, 6%-8% of the dogs had rabies antigen in their saliva at the point of slaughter. In wildlife brain tested for rabies antigen revealed prevalence in mongoose to be 11%, jackals 9%, squirrels 8.3%, hyrax link 17% and wild cats 16%. The intent of this review is to bring into focus the prevailing carrier status of high percentage of Nigerian dogs and wildlife and its possible consequences on human before the rabies interest groups of the international community. This is with a view to open facets for discussion and understanding the epidemiology of rabies and to seek for further collaboration on the

situation of rabies in Nigeria. It may necessitate drawing new protocol for human prophylaxis following bite from apparently healthy dogs. **Key words:** Rabies antigen spread, Apparently healthy dogs, Nigeria.

### PT.031 DISCUSSING THE RABIES SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN BRAZIL: AN EXPERIENCE OF SURVEILLANCE TOWARD BATS AFTER THE HALT OF MASS VACCINATION OF DOGS AND CATS IN CAMPINAS, SAO PAULO

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Bats are less vulnerable to forest fragmentation than any other mammal, and for that reason, some species can disperse to peri-urban or urban areas. Insectivore bats are abundant in urban areas due to the density of artificial roosts and insects attracted by city lights. Inter-species transmission of the rabies virus between bats can occur, and this is the most probable mechanism of virus circulation in bat populations. Bats can also transmit the rabies virus to other mammal species, like dogs and cats. With the halt of vaccination campaigns of dogs and cats in 2010, the importance of rabies surveillance in bats has increased in Brazil. In Campinas, Sao Paulo State, a passive surveillance system for bats was implemented in 1994 and rabies-positive bats from the families Molossidae, Phyllostomidae and Vespertilionidae were found in a peri-urban area. In these areas, a vaccination blockage in dogs and cats was recommended after the halt of the massive vaccination campaign in 2010. This control strategy was able to increase the proportion of vaccinated animals above a critical value while in the rest of the study area it did not. The probability of infectious contact between bats and dogs or cats was higher in the blockage areas, evidencing the importance of the implementation of control measures.

### PT.032 RABIES IN NIGERIA: A NEW PARADIGM SHIFT?

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Rabies is an infectious disease of the central nervous system (CNS) that kills over 50,000 people each year. The prevalence rate is between 15-20% in Nigeria, however, because of the problem with reporting, the true picture is difficult to obtain. Most of the cases are from the rural areas and are not reported to the relevant authorities. Recent survey of dog brain from dog market across three states showed an increase in the prevalence of rabies up to 54% from Kaduna State, 50 from Abuja while Plateau State had 58% prevalence. In addition, the emergence of asymptomatic rabies which after several mouse inoculations will kill the mice without showing clinical signs of rabies is case of concern. This paper demonstrates the public health significance of the observed high rabies prevalence and the dangers of having asymptomatic rabid dog in the society.