VACCINATION VOLUNTEER GUIDE
GOA

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF VACCINATING
MISSION RABIES

INTRODUCTION

Mission Rabies launched in 2013 with a 61,000 dog vaccination drive across 14 Indian cities - in just 30 days! Over 500 volunteers from all walks of life got stuck into the running, jabbing, and data collection that built the great success of our massive mobile vaccination program.

Building on the success of the initial vaccination drive we started eliminating rabies from the State of Goa in India with our massive 20,000 dog Animal Birth Control (ABC) and vaccination campaign from April to September 2014.

In 2015, we began annually vaccinating the entire state, holding the mass vaccination drive which you will be joining, in the autumn of each year. Last year, we vaccinated 11,185 dogs over a month and we’re hoping to do the same this year! You’ll be part of an exciting mega vaccination drive to protect the dogs and people from the tragedy of rabies.

Be Safe! Look out for each other!

Our volunteers come from all around the world and range from experienced professional vets, students to novices, who together form the task force to take on the brilliant Mission Rabies experience.

This guide outlines the various roles that need to be filled within a team and the day-to-day tasks involved. We give you a basic overview but this pack isn’t exhaustive. As part of the team in Goa you’ll get the most out of your time with us if you are flexible, prepared for the unexpected and ready to put heart and soul into making a difference here!

OBJECTIVES

- Vaccinate dogs
- Use the Mission Rabies App to record data for every dog vaccinated
- Give owners vaccination cards, bite prevention leaflet and wristbands
- Mark vaccinated dogs so that they are visible to the post-vaccination survey team
- Perform post-vaccination surveys 24-72 hours after vaccination to estimate the proportion of vaccinated dogs in a given area
VACCINATION TEAMS

You will be working in a team of 6-8 people, made up of Mission Rabies staff, local staff, and international volunteers. Each team will have a vehicle and allocated area to work through during the day. Each vaccination team consists of the following positions:

- **1 Team Leader**
  The Team Leader will be an experienced Mission Rabies or local staff member. They are in charge of the team, responsible for their wellbeing and will help direct how the team works.

- **1 to 2 vaccinators**
  Vets (Indian, Mission Rabies staff and volunteer), nurses and students can vaccinate the dogs. Only Mission Rabies vets are allowed to deal with rabies suspected dogs.

- **1 to 2 Data Collectors / Painters:**
  The Data Collector enters all vaccination data into the Mission Rabies App and the painter marks the vaccinated dogs so they can be identified as vaccinated. Vaccination cards are written out and given to owners of vaccinated dogs.

- **4 local Dog Handlers**
  The local Dog Catchers will humanely hold or net dogs.

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**EQUIPMENT**

Each team will carry equipment with them in the field. Please make sure that you have enough equipment before you head out to your vaccination area. Basic veterinary supplies are kept at base. Each vaccination team has a cool box and a bag that will contain the daily essentials that includes:

- **Cooler**
  - Ice Packs
  - Cloth to cover the ice packs
    - Rabies vaccine

- **Kit bag**
  - Syringes
  - Needles (one per dog)
    - Sharps container
    - Trash bag
  - Vaccination Record booklet (strictly a “backup”)
  - Vaccination cards - for owned dogs
    - Wrist bands
    - Educational leaflets
    - First aid kit for humans
    - Basic veterinary drugs
Dog Handlers
The dog handlers are local staff, trained to catch dogs in butterfly nets quickly and humanely. They will help you by restraining dogs while they are vaccinated and marked before being released.

Painter
The painter will be responsible for applying a line of paint to each dog to indicate that it has been vaccinated. They might also carry the equipment and draw up vaccines, handing vaccine-filled syringes to the "vaccinators" and taking back used syringes for refilling. This person should carry a sharps container (a used water bottle will work!) to dispose of used needles.

Vaccinator
Only these people will be vaccinating dogs. Vaccinators will be vets, vet nurses and vet students (under supervision).

Data Collector
This person is responsible for accurately entering data into Mission Rabies App for every dog vaccinated. They may also write and give out vaccination cards to owners of vaccinated dogs.

Post Vaccination Survey Team
The post-vaccination survey will be completed by local staff within 24-72 hours of vaccination taking place in a ward (area or district of a city). The purpose of this survey will be to estimate the proportion of animals in a ward that have been vaccinated to see if we have exceeded 70%, the amount needed to eliminate rabies from an area.
STEP BY STEP

The following “step-by-step” will give you an idea of how the vaccination work happens - in reality, most of these tasks will happen simultaneously. What’s important is that all of the tasks are completed safely and efficiently and that data is recorded accurately.

The vaccinating procedure is usually:

Catch
Dog handlers will begin catching dogs ahead of the team. Once netted they will safely restrain the dog until vaccinated by the team. All of the dog catchers will be local so you will quickly learn some words in Hindi. Don’t attempt to approach a dog unless the dog handler has it secured and indicates it is safe to approach.

Vaccinate
The vaccinator will be given a "loaded" syringe so they can vaccinate the dog. The vaccine can be given IM or sub-cu, though you will probably find it easier to give a netted dog the vaccine IM. The needle should be changed after every dog. Don’t litter clinical waste in the street - please put it in the sharps bottle or the equipment bag.

Paint
The Painter will apply ink/paint to each dog that has been vaccinated - ideally on the top of its head or along its back. The mark indicates that a dog has been vaccinated so it MUST be visible for the post-vaccination survey team to identify them.

Data Collect
The Data Collector will record all data on the Mission Rabies App for each dog vaccinated. This person may also be vaccinating, painting, or writing vaccine cards for owned dogs.

Release
The dog handlers will release dogs from the nets gently and quietly. Any rough handling of dogs will NOT be tolerated.

By virtue of the numbers of dogs we will vaccinate, you are bound to run into some more complicated cases. You may encounter dogs with conditions that are causing severe suffering, possibly warranting euthanasia. You will be told what to do if you encounter any sick or injured dogs during your briefing. You may encounter rabies suspects. On NO account must an international volunteer approach a suspected rabid dog - these will be handled and sedated by the experienced dog handlers and Mission Rabies vets in the team.
ITINERARY

Arrival: You arrival day is set aside for you to fly into Goa and to rest after your journey. You will be collected from the airport. You will have a chance to meet your room mate, the other volunteers and staff members throughout the day and at the evening meal.

Orientation and Briefing: Giving you a chance to settle in and deal with any jetlag, your first full day in country will primarily be for orientation. If you need to visit the bank or shops, this would be a good time to do it. You will also receive your Mission Rabies briefing which will go over in more detail how the project works, how to stay safe and will give you the opportunity to ask any questions that you have before we start. You will also be shown the Mission Rabies App, which is used to collect data on every dog vaccinated. The App also helps with navigation, will contain contact details for all the teams, Mission Rabies staff and local emergency services.

Vaccinating: Monday to Friday will be working days, spent vaccinating in the field. Days start early to work when it's cool - you'll be out at 6am in your allocated ward which you will be walking through, vaccinating every dog you find.

You will have breakfast and lunch in the field with your team so you will get to try a variety of Indian foods from samosas to thalis. There will be a lunch break in the middle of the day when the sun is at its hottest, before heading back into the field. The whole day will be spent walking so you should be able to walk at least 15km a day in high temperatures and humidity - we suggest you let us know if you have any health conditions that might make this difficult or just wish to discuss your ability to participate. Wear sturdy walking shoes!

You shall head back to base before it gets dark so that you can prepare your kit for the following day. It is important to ensure that the data collected on the App is synchronised each evening. Once everything is ready for the next day you will head back to your accommodation to freshen up, have dinner and relax before a well-earned sleep!

Weekend: Saturday afternoon and Sunday are your weekend and time off, giving you some time to relax and explore the area. For these days, there will be an optional trip - more information to follow!