INTRODUCTION

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

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

You are joining us out in Malawi, our exciting mega vaccination drive to protect the dogs and people of Blantyre from the tragedy of rabies. In 2015 we began our work in Blantyre and we’ll be here until it is rabies free!

OBJECTIVES

- Vaccinate dogs
- Use the Mission Rabies App to record data on dogs treated
- Give owners a vaccination record, bite prevention leaflet and wristband.
- 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 vaccination coverage.

Our volunteers come from all around the world, are experienced professional vets, students and animal lovers 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 our teams and the day-to-day tasks involved. We give you a basic overview but this pack isn’t exhaustive. As part of the Malawi team 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!

Together we target 70% of the dog population - that’s around 30,000 to 50,000 dogs every year. This city has the highest number of reported child fatalities in Africa - we can make it the lowest!

BE SAFE! LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER
VACCINATION TEAMS
Each vaccination team is different but usually consist of the following positions:

• 1 Team Leader
  The team leader will be a member of staff/or experienced volunteer. They’ll be in charge of the team.

• 2 Veterinarians/Vet Nurses
  Where possible there will be one international volunteer vet/nurse and one local or Mission Rabies vet. Mission Rabies or local vets are responsible for dealing with any rabies suspects.

• 2 Data Collectors/Painters/Vaccination Assistants:
  Vaccination assistants work with the vet, filling syringes with vaccine and writing the vaccination card. The dog is then painted and all vaccination data is entered into the Mission Rabies App.

• 2 local Dog Handlers
  The local dog handlers will help to restrain the dogs brought in by the owner.

ROLES

Dog Handler
The dog handlers are local staff trained in restraining animals safely and humanely.

Vaccinator
Vaccinators will be vets, vet nurses and vet students (under supervision).

Vaccination Assistant
All volunteers can take on the responsibility of supporting the vaccinator. You’ll be taught how to draw up vaccine, fill out the cards and paint the vaccinated animals.

Data Collector
These volunteers must be used to smartphones, they are responsible for accurately entering data into the Mission Rabies App. They must meet with the post-vaccination survey coordinator each evening to upload all data.
On your first day in Malawi, you will receive a briefing from the Project Leader. This will cover important health and safety information, as well as introducing the teams and explaining more about how the project will run.

You will also receive training on how to use the Mission Rabies App. Besides being our means of collecting data on every dog vaccinated, the app is also a useful navigation tool, with GPS maps and a pathtracker so you can see where you’ve already been. Each smartphone is also loaded with contact details for all the teams, your Volunteer Coordinators and local emergency services.

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**GET YOUR KIT PREPARED**

**IT'S AN EARLY START!**

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**EQUIPMENT**

Each team will carry equipment. Please make sure that you carry enough equipment with you before you head out to the vaccination points. Each vaccination team will have a cool box and a bag/box that will contain their daily essential - if at a static point you will have everything packed in your truck, on a walking day you will carry it with you:

- Cooler
- Ice packs
- Rabies vaccine
- Syringes/needles

**Kit bag**
- Megaphone
- Needles (one per dog)
- Syringes (one syringe per 5 dogs)
- Syringes (one syringe per 5 dogs)
- Sharps container
- Rubbish bags
- Vaccination Record booklet (a “backup”)
- Vaccination cards - for owned dogs
- Wrist bands
- Bite prevention advice leaflets
- Mobile smartphone

**Extras (Stationary clinics)**
- Table
- Banners
The following “step-by-step” guide does not necessarily need to be followed exactly. In reality, most of these tasks will happen somewhat simultaneously. What’s important is that all of the tasks are completed safely and efficiently and that data are recorded accurately into the Mission Rabies App.

Each day, the Project Coordinator will have arranged a route plan for your team, based on the areas in each city. For the data collection, there will be a specific code for each area you are working in. Transport will be arranged for your team to your particular region(s) for the day.

There will be two different “types” of vaccination activities: the stationary vaccination and the door-to-door vaccination.

Door-to-Door Vaccination

You will be working in mobile teams from Monday to Wednesday, travelling out on trucks you’ll drive out to your vaccination region for the day. You’ll need some sturdy walking boots as Blantyre is mountainous and on some days you’ll be walking up dirt tracks and on others you’ll be in leafy suburban regions. You get to see parts of Blantyre few tourists will see and get a real feel for this vibrant, friendly city.

Manned with megaphones - your team will call out the dog owners and alert them of free vaccines! A call of ‘Odie - excuse me!’ to a family, and you’ll be in family homes delivering life-saving vaccines to countless dogs in a day. Armed with all you need for the day in kit bags, you’ll give each owner a record of the vaccine delivery, an education leaflet and one of our wristbands.
Stationary Vaccination

During the weekends, you will be based at vaccination stations usually in or nearby schools. Our education team will have advertised these stations before you arrive, alongside delivering rabies lessons to children of that particular school. You will be based in a room or just outside the school, where you can place your supplies. Community members will bring their dogs to you, forming a queue in order to benefit from free vaccinations delivered by your team to their dogs.
THE VACCINATION PROCESS

The Dog Handlers will receive the dog from its owner and restrain it. Don’t attempt to approach a dog unless the dog handler has it secured and indicates it is safe to approach.

The Vaccinator will vaccinate the restrained dog. There is no need to worry about vaccinating particular locations on the body and both intramuscular and subcutaneous injection are good. The Vaccination Assistant will assist by preparing the syringes, filling in the vaccination record cards the owner receives for every dog he or she brought in. If the owner already has a vaccination card from a local vet or a previous vaccination campaign, please make sure that the vaccination of the dog received is recorded on the card. The needle should be changed after every dog and the syringe after every 5 dogs. Don’t litter clinical waste in the street - please put it in the sharps bottle and black bag.

The Painter will apply ink/paint to each dog that has been vaccinated - ideally against the grain of the fur. The purpose of this mark is to indicate that a dog has been vaccinated. Always remember that this mark MUST be visible to the post-vaccination survey team; they will be cruising the streets on a motorbike in the coming days to estimate the percentage of vaccinated dogs in each ward.

The Data Collector will record all data (don’t forget to tap the button for your GPS coordinates!) for each dog vaccinated according to the Mission Rabies App instructions. At the end of each day, Data Collectors need to ensure that the data is properly uploaded and the phone is charged for the next day.

For the most part, you will be vaccinating, marking and collecting data of dogs as outlined in this guide. 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 may encounter rabies suspects. For any such cases, you must consult one of the veterinarians on your vaccination team before proceeding.

AS A VOLUNTEER YOU SHOULD NEVER APPROACH A SUSPECT RABID DOG. ALWAYS REPORT THESE ANIMALS TO A MISSION RABIES STAFF VET.