

# Dog Population Management and Rabies Control



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**1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Directors of Rabies Control Programmes in  
East Africa**

**Regional Canine rabies elimination: prototype for strengthening  
intersectoral engagement and global health security agenda**

**Nairobi, Kenya 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

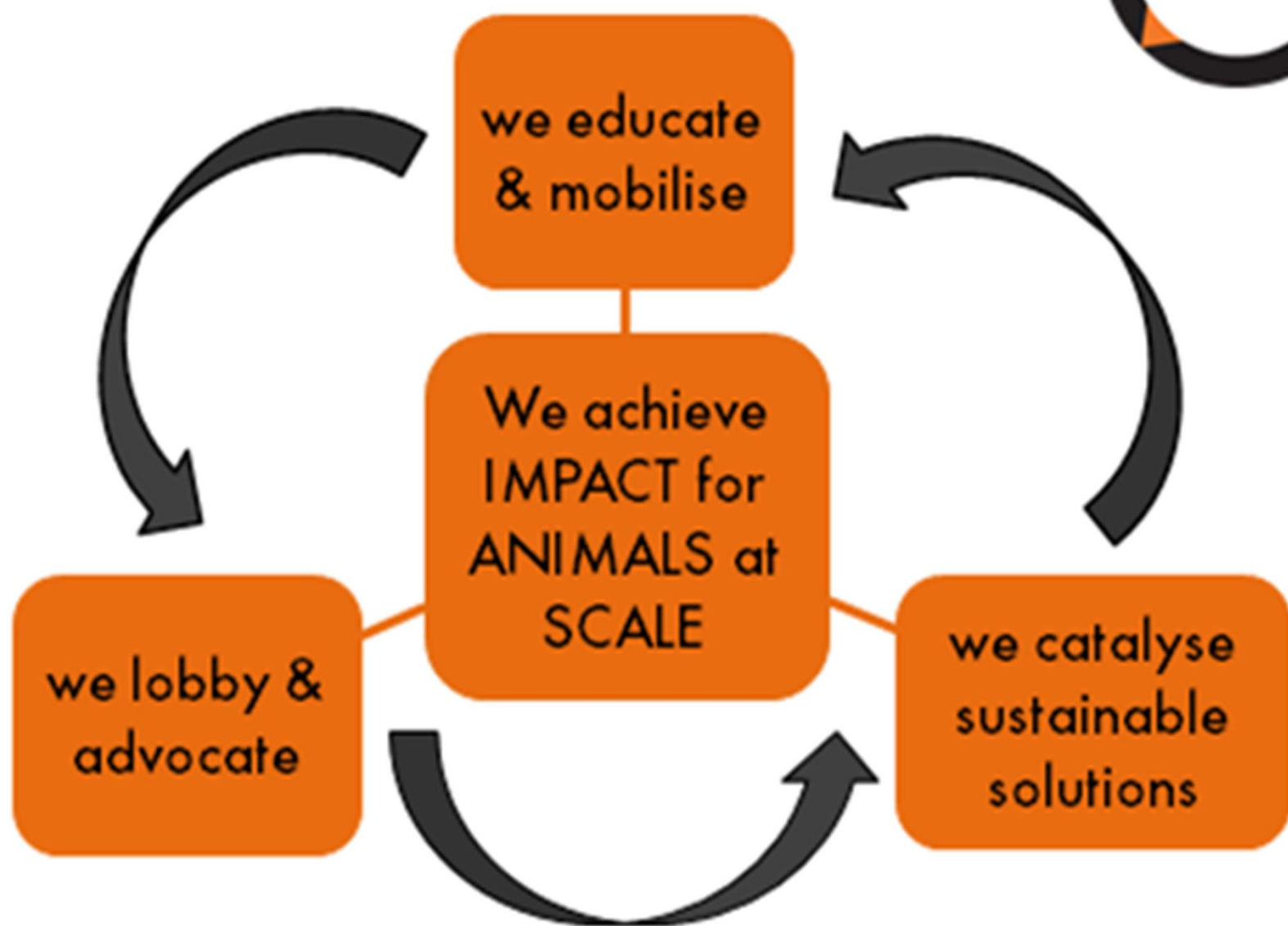
We were known as **WSPA**  
(World Society for the  
Protection of Animals)

# Fact Sheet



- ❖ 30 years of humane DPM worldwide, Latin America, Europe, Asia Pacific & Africa, At present in 10 countries across the world.
- ❖ **One Million Dogs vaccinated so far and next million on the go.**
- ❖ Impacted, educated and created awareness in schools & communities. Approximately over 10 million lives touched.
- ❖ **Supported Rabies Zanzibar, establish their rabies control, Humane DPM programme.**
- ❖ Influenced change of animal welfare policy in Tanzania, Kenya, Egypt.
- ❖ **Influenced curriculum change in universities\ polytechnics and primary in schools.**
- ❖ Stopped/ reduced culling in several countries with Mass dog vaccination.

# Theory of change



# Introduction DPM Concept



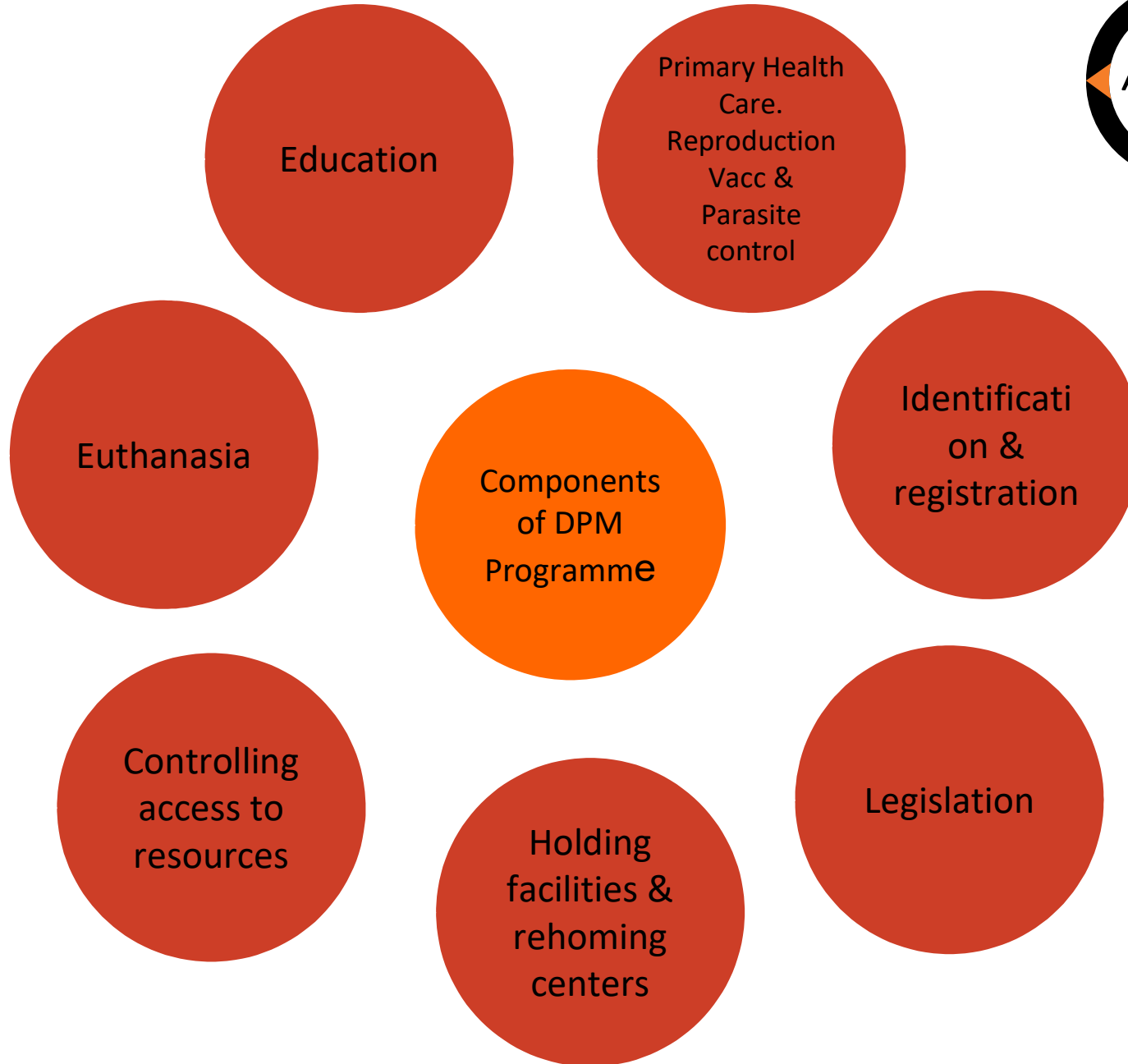
- ❖ Africa has a fast growing population of over 1 billion people and where there are people there are dogs. Approximately 10 million dogs
- ❖ Due to competing economic and social needs there is a perceived lack of African governments willingness to prioritize rabies and dog population issues.
- ❖ In Africa most people are resource constrained therefore dogs rank low in order of priority – free roaming, unvaccinated, poor husbandry (welfare)

# Rational



- The main concern for Africa is zoonotic transmission of rabies from dogs to humans & livestock **leading to loss of lives & livelihoods**
- The usual response is to cull dog populations
  - Expensive, Inhumane, Ineffective (**problem returns almost immediately – Scientifically proven**)
- Mass vaccination has instead been proven to be the best solution to elimination of dog mediated rabies

# Components of an Effective DPM Programme



# Managing Dogs & their Interaction with Communities



- Goal to have harmonious coexistence of dogs and the majority of humans they interact with
- Moving responsibility for dog management to dog owners
- Understand that buy-in & ownership by key stakeholders is essential for long term sustainability

# Change in current paradigms



- ❖ Breaking the belief that mass culling controls rabies
- ❖ Accepting that rabies control should be a free public good
- ❖ Aim to catalyze long term behavior change
- ❖ Develop sustainable solutions



## Key components of sustainably achieving Immediate Priority; 70% Herd Immunity



- Competent Authority need to have the desire; political and financial support of higher authorities; capacity & competency to deliver an effective vaccination campaign
- Dog owners need to understand why they must vaccinate their dogs and be willing and capable of presenting them for immunisation
- Dog owners must understand their role in contributing to the roaming dog population and its negative impacts on neighbours and rabies control, and take responsibility for minimising roaming dogs



## Kenya



- Worked with Dogs in Makueni, Baringo, Mombasa
- Support to the development of a national rabies elimination strategy - 2014
- Collaboration with Makueni County government, ‘Dollar for dollar’ financial partnering (Approx. \$70- 120,000 per annum total)
- First round mass vaccination trial:- Over 89,000 dogs vaccinated and basic health care (60,000 vaccines us , 30,000 Makueni County)

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- Started training Teachers, Education officers and Livestock Extension officers as TOTs in rabies and Dog welfare aimed at pupils and farmers
- In 2016 cases of rabies in cows and goats confirmed (1 Honey badger transmission), Suspected Not confirmed rabies in dog (carcass destroyed). Non confirmed human cases (improved dog bite follow-up ??).
- Collaborated with KVA on WRD and other programmes
- Working with Nairobi County AW – By Laws
- Working with National Government on the animal welfare act



## Sierra Leone



- Establishment of a National Animal Welfare, livestock and Rabies Taskforce.
- Finalization of draft Animal welfare and Livestock Acts at attorney generals office – allows Humane DPM with jurisdiction.
- Draft National Rabies elimination and DPM strategy being developed
- Capacity building of Freetown City Council to undertake pilot project in Freetown. Staff & Infrastructure
- Ownership by Ministry of health, agriculture, forestry and food security
- Collaboration with national WHO, FAO offices, GARC and other NGO's



## Zanzibar (2005 – 2015)



- Results following DPM efforts in Zanzibar between 2008 and 2014:
- 65% decrease in Dog bite incidences
- 100% decrease in human rabies deaths
- Last death was a child registered November 2013
- 0 cases of confirmed or suspected rabies in dogs as at December 2013. (Please note there was a surveillance gap)
- 2016 had new 5 cases of rabies. (due to improved, working surveillance system – GARC).

# Partners



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# Call to Action



- ❖ Mass vaccination is the most of effective way to eliminate rabies
- ❖ There is need for mass education for dog owners and the public on Responsible Dog Ownership
- ❖ Rabies elimination should be a public good e.g. Polio, Rinderpest eradication
- ❖ Governments to invest economically & politically in rabies elimination to enable sustainability
- ❖ ***Decision makers need to be convinced of the value of national strategies and inclusion of ‘One Health’ approach in Humane DPM and Mass Dog Vaccination in order to sustain and accelerate elimination of dog mediated rabies.***





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