



# Global Alliance for Rabies Control 5<sup>th</sup> Annual World Rabies Day September 28, 2011



## SAVMA 2011 World Rabies Day Event Guidelines

**To: Presidents, Student Chapters of the AVMA**

**From:** G. Robert Weedon, DVM, MPH, Veterinary Outreach Coordinator, GARC  
Peter Costa, MPH, MCHES, Global Communications Coordinator, GARC  
Deborah Briggs, PhD, Executive Director, GARC

**Subject: Invitation - Help Celebrate World Rabies Day 2011!**

Thank you for an excellent fourth year! SAVMA continues to energize the global One Health community. Since the inaugural campaign in 2007, in which SAVMA was integral in developing World Rabies Day events, activities have been held in 135 countries; educating 150 million people and vaccinating 4.6 million dogs!

- Again, the World Rabies Day Team is inviting the veterinary student community in North America to partner in the World Rabies Day initiative because you are the future of public health and rabies prevention. As you know, uncontrolled rabies in dogs is the major global source of human rabies mortality. Related canine variants of rabies viruses once circulated in the USA but were eliminated due to comprehensive dog vaccination and stray dog control. With four years of World Rabies Day behind us now, we know that your participation has engaged the veterinary community worldwide to work toward rabies prevention in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the ultimate goal of global elimination of canine rabies virus variants.
- Rabies remains a neglected disease that kills 55,000 people yearly, the majority of whom are children. In the USA, there are around 8,000 diagnosed cases of animal rabies and up to 40,000 humans exposed to rabies each year. The morbidity and mortality associated with rabies and exposure to rabies are preventable through education and vaccination.
- The objective of the World Rabies Day initiative is to raise global awareness about rabies and how it can be prevented, to mobilize resources for rabies prevention programs in developing countries, and to assist in education about rabies control and prevention for the most at-risk persons; especially children and young people.
- The Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) is a U.S. registered non-profit organization formed by leading rabies researchers and public health professionals. The Alliance is uniting experts from around the world and acts as the coordinator for World Rabies Day activities, along with other partner organizations, such as American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), etc. A listing of our Partners can be found at: [http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Our\\_Partners/Our\\_Partners.html](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Our_Partners/Our_Partners.html)



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## What do we want?

- We are asking you to get involved in organizing and supporting awareness, education and fundraising events on or around World Rabies Day, Sep. 28<sup>th</sup>!
  - Host a rabies vaccination clinic.
  - Hold a fundraising event such as a fun run or a dog jog.
  - Educate people about rabies with an educational event.
- Why would you participate?
  - To help save the both human and animal lives.
  - To enhance rabies awareness locally in your community.
  - To unite and collaborate with local animal health organizations.
  - To promote personal/professional development.
  - To network with public and private sector agencies.
  - To highlight your CVM's program
  - To advance global rabies awareness and prevention.
  - To fundraise for global education programs in canine rabies endemic countries.

## How to Participate:

- Any US veterinary school that hosts a World Rabies Day event in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control will be eligible to compete for the World Rabies Day Symposium.
- Post your event on the WRD website: <http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/events.html>
- Contact our World Rabies Day team members:
  - Dr. Bob Weedon ([robert.weedon@worldrabiesday.org](mailto:robert.weedon@worldrabiesday.org)), and
  - Peter Costa ([peter.costa@worldrabiesday.org](mailto:peter.costa@worldrabiesday.org)).
- Dr. Bob Weedon is the Veterinary Outreach Coordinator responsible for working with individual SAVMA representatives. Peter Costa is the World Rabies Day Global Communications/Campaign Coordinator.
- Sign up at the [www.worldrabiesday.org](http://www.worldrabiesday.org) website to ensure that we keep you updated by email.

## Competitive Prizes

### 1. School competition – Merial Rabies Symposium!

- The US veterinary school with the largest percentage of currently enrolled veterinary students participating in WRD event(s) conducted in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control will benefit from a full-day Rabies Symposium by international experts held on-site at their veterinary school.

This year's Merial Rabies Symposium winner is Iowa State University, and will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011





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- If the veterinary school holds more than one event, the participation of individual student(s) may be counted only once regardless of the number of events in which they participated.

## 2. Individual student competition – “CDC Experience” Internship!

- Currently enrolled veterinary students from SAVMA chapters at schools that conduct WRD event(s) in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control will be eligible to submit a 1000 word (not including references) essay on the role veterinarians play in public health and zoonotic disease prevention and control including a few specific examples as well as prevention tools. Separate guidance on the internship competition including submission deadlines will be made available. For more information please contact Dr. Bob Weedon at [robert.weedon@worldrabiesday.org](mailto:robert.weedon@worldrabiesday.org).

Cassie Wedd, a veterinary student at the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine has won the 2010 World Rabies Day Essay Competition organized by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control for the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA)

### Final Points:

- Check-out our “Student Corner” dedicated for Vet student guidance and updates: [http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Get\\_Involved/Student\\_Corner.html](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Get_Involved/Student_Corner.html)
- In the “Student Corner” section, you will find a rabies clinic planning guide, which is a document that might be helpful if you are planning a rabies vaccination clinic in conjunction with WRD. You can download it from: <http://www.worldrabiesday.org/assets/files/Rabies%20Clinic%20Toolkit.pdf>.
- The World Rabies Day logo is available in nearly 40 languages for ANY events that you may plan that would enhance rabies awareness. Logos are downloadable at: [http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Logo\\_Downloads.html](http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Logo_Downloads.html)
- Consider partnering: State VMAs, State Public Health and/or Agriculture Veterinarian, Local Health Departments, Humane Organizations, Animal Control Organizations, Wildlife Organizations, etc.
- Preliminary planning for a date and a venue: the best days are usually Saturday or Sunday. Take a look at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) to get an idea of typical events in your area or ask a local running club for advice (see: <http://www.rrca.org/>).
- Web sites:
  - World Rabies Day [www.worldrabiesday.org](http://www.worldrabiesday.org)
  - Global Alliance for Rabies Control [www.globalrabiescontrol.org](http://www.globalrabiescontrol.org)
  - CDC Rabies [www.cdc.gov/rabies/](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/)