



World Rabies Day, September 28, 2010

Novartis Vaccines, an official partner of World Rabies Day 2010

- Novartis Vaccines supports World Rabies Day, an initiative by the Alliance for Rabies Control, established to promote the prevention and control of rabies and to increase awareness of the burden of the disease through a series of events around the world.¹
- Novartis Vaccines is fully committed to the prevention of rabies, as demonstrated by the recent opening of a new rabies vaccine manufacturing facility in Marburg, Germany.

Rabies is almost invariably fatal

- Rabies is a viral infection, transmitted to humans from infected mammals, via a bite, scratch, or contact with saliva.²
- Rabies has the highest case-fatality rate of any infectious disease known to infect man.³
- Rabies cannot be detected before the onset of clinical symptoms; however, once symptoms appear even the best quality treatment has no impact.⁴
- More than 55,000 people die each year from rabies, with approximately 95% of cases occurring in Africa and Asia.^{2,4}

Rabies is preventable through vaccination

- Death can be prevented through pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis.⁵
- Pre-exposure prophylaxis is recommended for people at an increased risk of rabies exposure.^{3,4}
- Immediate post-exposure prophylaxis is recommended after exposure to an animal that is suspected (but cannot be further tested), or has been confirmed, to be rabid.⁴
 - Without post-exposure prophylaxis, it has been estimated that the number of human deaths attributed to rabies would be at least five times higher in Africa and Asia.⁶

References: 1. World Rabies Day. <http://www.worldrabiesday.org/index.php>. Accessed July 8, 2010; 2. WHO. Rabies. Fact sheet No. 99. December 2008. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs099/en/>. Accessed July 8, 2010; 3. Manning SE, et al. *MMWR Recomm Rep* 2008;57(RR-3):1-28; 4. WHO. *Wkly Epidemiol Rec* 2010;85(32):309-20; 5. Rupprecht CE, et al. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2002;2(6):327-43; 6. Knobel DL, et al. *Bull World Health Organ* 2005;83(5):360-8