



RABIES IN WEST AFRICA

“Harmonizing Stakeholders & Tools for the Prevention & Control of Rabies”

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PRE WRD ORGANIZATION MEETING LAWRA

DATE: JULY 9, 2020

Dr. Bonodong Guri and Mr. Russell Coombs represented RIWAG in a maiden WRD organizing meeting in Lawra.

The MCE for Lawra had organized a meeting at the LMA for 11:30am to include all the major stakeholders involved in the program - The MCE for Lawra, heads education, Health, Veterinary, MOFA, RVO for Upper West Region, and Ghana Red Cross Society, Lawra and AMAGMAL.



Pic 1. Participants discuss modalities to carry out total mass vaccination of Pets, Regionalwide education on responsible pet ownership and hold a grant WRD launch come 28th September, 2020.

Participants were debriefed on RIWAG and her Mission. The meeting also covered all aspects of the Launch activities – Free Mass dog Vaccination program and actual commemoration of WRD and, the role of all stakeholders present.

There was a live one hour radio interview with the main FM station Lawra organized by The MCE from 7:30pm-8:30pm, all in local language.

The purpose of the radio talk was to start the announcement on the vaccination campaign and rabies awareness talk early. The MCE told the listeners that a vaccination campaign that is coming will be a big one as we intend to vaccinate virtually all the dogs. He told them a voluntary organization is supporting the district to do it and he is calling upon everyone who has dogs, cats to come out in September and vaccinate their animals.

Dr Guri and the district veterinary officer threw light on rabies. We spoke among others what rabies is? How one can contract it? Preventive measures, benefits of vaccinating domestic animals against rabies, etc.

The telephone was opened for people to call in. We got calls from Lawra and neighboring districts like Nandom and Jirapa. The first caller called in just to express his happiness and gratitude that a rabies vaccination campaign is coming to the district. He said, it's been a long time the district had a major event on rabies. Other callers asked questions on age of vaccination, how often the animal should be vaccinated, risk of handling suspected rabies dog meat, etc.



Pic. 2. Participants including the MCE, Dr Guri, Health Director and District Veterinary Officer in a maiden Radio discussion on rabies after the Meeting in Lawra