

Why is culling of dogs still used as a method of rabies control?

Tasmin Alexander, Katie Hampson, Sarah Cleaveland, Kennedy Lushasi, Anna Czupryna, Elaine Ferguson, Nick Hanley



Correspondence: t.alexander.1@research.ac.uk,
[@tasminalexander](https://twitter.com/tasminalexander)



Culling: one-off or episodic organised killing of ≥ 1 dog/s for rabies control and/or dog population management, not including targeted killing of a rabid dog

Rabies: Zoonotic disease, 100% mortality once clinical symptoms appear. Causes the death of 59,000 people annually primarily children in low-income countries. 99% are the result of contact with an infected dog.

Indiscriminate culling is ineffective/counterproductive
Vaccination saves lives



Preliminary findings

1. Active government & community involvement in culling
2. Multiple motivations for rabies control culls identified, not only the direct prevention of rabies transmission
3. Rabies control culls are mostly carried out in the absence of vaccination but also after vaccination, risking culling of vaccinated dog
4. Culling is widespread but often considered unsuccessful

Future ideas

1. Cost - benefit analysis
2. Stakeholder motivations
3. Risk perception & willingness to support

You've heard my ideas
... what are yours?

