Annex 9: RABNET—the electronic data bank and reporting system on rabies in humans and animals

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Department of Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Response
Animal and Food related Public Health Risk

http://www.rabnet.who.int

RABNET is a databank, which contains all data submitted to WHO through the Questionnaire for the WHO World Survey of Rabies between 1988 and 1999. This databank is accessible via the WorldWideWeb.

The RABNET data bank offers two major advantages:
- easy, worldwide access to retrospective data on rabies diagnosis, surveillance, and control in humans and animals from many countries and all continents in the world
- possible online update of country related data on rabies to improve topicality of data.

- Country data can be updated online and immediately using an entry form similar to the WHO Questionnaire for the World Survey of Rabies. Thus, any delay in responding to the Questionnaire by one country will not affect the topicality of information provided by others as this is currently the case with the WHO World Survey of Rabies.
- RABNET will, in the long term, supersede the Questionnaire for the World Survey of Rabies as data can now be entered by any laboratory with WWW access directly in the WHO RABNET databank.
- RABNET ensures data security. Passwords, given to only one country focal point offer access to the data entry section for this country only.

- RABNET will provide up-to-date data on the epidemiological situation of rabies in a given country, which will be readily accessible through the WWW.
- RABNET has a powerful data view/analyses section which can be customized through the WWW to users needs. This tool offers a multitude of possibilities (maps, charts, tables, text) for all WWW users to access and use country related data on rabies prevalence in humans in animals, diagnosis, treatment and vaccine production.
- In addition, RABNET provides access to retrospective data collected by WHO since 1988. Data already stored in the RABNET databank are fully available for analyses and amendment, if necessary.

Currently, 67 national rabies reference laboratories are participating in the pilot phase of RABNET. They have received their password and have begun entering their national data into the RABNET data bank. Countries without access to the WWW can continue processing their data in the hardcopy of the WHO Questionnaire for the World Survey of Rabies.

Questions or comments? Are you a national rabies focal point and would like to participate in RABNET? Please E-mail to: rabnet@who.ch or fax to: +41 22 791 4893