

## **TEDD= TECHNOLOGY-TRANSFER TO ELIMINATE DOG-TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

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Nepal is among the poorest countries in the world and dog-transmitted diseases such as rabies contribute to Nepal's poverty. Rabies can be eliminated through public education, annual vaccination and sterilisation of free-roaming dogs. In Nepal, rabies elimination is hindered by lack of large-scale coordination of resources and public education. As a result, most free-roaming dogs are free to reproduce and are not vaccinated against rabies. HART (Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust) demonstrated that annual rabies vaccination campaigns, dog sterilisation and public education can be successfully carried out in large Nepali cities.

HART developed a simple, inexpensive and user-friendly application for assessing the local number of dogs and the proportion of dogs sterilised and/or vaccinated against rabies. This application, linked to GIS-based technology, has potential to become a key tool for rabies eradication and dog population management in developing countries.

The main aims of the pilot project are:

- Tool development, to integrate the novel application for estimating local number and proportion of sterilised, rabies-vaccinated dogs with maps that illustrate the status of rabies vaccination and the number of free-roaming dogs in an area.
- Technology transfer from HART and its partners to the national veterinary services responsible for animal health in Nepal.
- Providing evidence of impact through monitoring the uptake of this technology and evaluating its potential to lead to canine rabies eradication and dog population control.

We will discuss the methods proposed for the study and highlight the expected outcomes and the wider implications for dog population management.