

**GAPFA STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO END HUMAN DEATHS FROM DOG-MEDIATED RABIES BY 2030**

The Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA) is made up of regional and national pet food associations and individual companies that manufacture pet food around the globe. As responsible pet food producers and pet owners, GAPFA members support the joined efforts of the four organisations under the United Against Rabies collaboration – the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) – to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

Rabies in dogs has been effectively managed in developed countries in recent years with the aid of strict vaccination laws and veterinary care. However, the virus is still more present in many areas of the globe. In fact, over 95% of human cases of rabies globally are due to dog bites<sup>1</sup>. But unlike many other diseases, all the tools needed to eradicate rabies already exist.

The [global strategic plan](#) of the United Against Rabies collaboration prioritises the societal changes needed to reach zero dog-mediated rabies cases by 2030 into three objectives: (1) to effectively use vaccines, medicines, tools and technologies to reduce the risk of human rabies through expanded dog vaccinations, improved awareness and increased access to healthcare; (2) to generate, innovate and measure impact through effective policies by harmonising international recommendations and ensuring the availability of reliable data to enable effective decision-making; and (3) to sustain commitment and resources through multi-stakeholder engagement and by demonstrating the impact of activities completed under the United Against Rabies collaboration in national, regional and global rabies elimination programme.

GAPFA acknowledges the importance of developing coherent strategies for sustainable responsible dog ownership practices and bite prevention education, as well as engaging partners, communities, and national and international media to increase rabies awareness. Global campaigns such as World Rabies Day already actively involve community leaders and bring rabies to the forefront through innovative local activities and events.

Each year, on [28 September](#), World Rabies Day brings together the international community to promote the fight against rabies. If you want to join the global movement, you can organise or participate in any event near your home. You can find more information about how to get involved in the [Rabies portal](#) on the OIE website, and [discover here](#) how you can contribute to raise awareness on rabies by joining the #RabiesEndsHere community.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the information from the [OIE website](#)

We support the joined efforts and community engagement to eliminate this fatal but preventable disease by 2030.

***The Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA)** is a non-profit association, established in Belgium in 2014, representing national and regional pet food industry associations and companies of pet food manufacturers across the globe (13 Member Associations and 3 Corporate Members). GAPFA's mission is to support the health and wellbeing of dogs and cats and to promote the benefits of living with them, by providing a forum to address industry consensus on key issues of mutual interest. The Alliance works to promote adherence to food safety and nutritional standards enabling manufacturers to deliver wholesome, healthy and nutritious prepared pet foods; to promote the feeding of prepared pet food to support the health and wellbeing of pets; and to develop and disseminate educational resources which highlight and enhance the benefits of human pet interaction. For further information, please visit [www.gapfa.org](http://www.gapfa.org).*