



World Rabies Day 2008: Awareness is the Best Defense against Rabies

The world is again joining together on September 28th to raise awareness and understanding about the importance of rabies prevention. Rabies is the oldest and deadliest disease known to mankind and **IDSP** is supporting this initiative.

Led by the Alliance for Rabies Control and supported by numerous human and animal health organizations worldwide, World Rabies Day is a unique campaign that brings together hundreds of thousands of people across the world to reinforce the message that rabies is a preventable disease, yet kills 55,000 people needlessly each year, half of which are children under the age of 15¹.

“Rabies is primarily a disease of children, who are particularly at risk from this terrible disease, due to their close contact with dogs, the major global source”, said Dr. Debbie Briggs, Executive Director of the Alliance for Rabies Control. “Children are more likely to suffer multiple bites and scratches to the face and head, both of which carry a higher risk of contracting rabies. Children are often unaware of the danger that dogs transmit rabies and may not tell their parents when a bite, lick, or scratch has occurred from an infected animal”, says Briggs.

IDSP and Rabies in Asia Pakistan Chapter Foundation plan to observe **World Rabies Day on Saturday September 27, 2008** with other Asian, African, North and South American countries by organizing events to raise awareness among children and their parents. The objective is to get everyone on board in support of World Rabies Day activities.

The venue of the main event will be on the **premises of the Indus Hospital, Korangi Crossing, Karachi**. On that day we will invite hundreds of students and parents, display informative videos, posters, flyers, kites, and give away T shirts, caps, balloons, buttons, etc. The children will present songs and skits related to animals. A well known television personality will entertain the children through quizzes, and prizes will be given away.

More information on World Rabies Day can be found at the official web site, www.worldrabiesdy.org.

References:

1. WHO. Human and Animal Rabies, *Rabies: A neglected zoonotic disease*. Available at: <http://www.who.int/rabies/en/>. Accessed on July 23, 2008.