

Free Rabies vaccination and sterilization campaign on 30th and 31st October 2021 in Gichagi Chiefs Camp Ndumbu-ini Nairobi, Kenya.

Introduction: Rabies is a preventable zoonotic disease that is most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system of mammals, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. The importance of free rabies vaccines in endemic areas includes:

- Vaccination campaigns for rabies in cats and dogs in areas where there are limited resources.
- Community education about rabies and how to prevent it.
- Community education about dog and cat population control by spay/ neutering to prevent rabies and as well as improve animal welfare.



Objective:

- Population control of cats and dogs by spay/ neuter in the surrounding area.
- Vaccinating the surrounding areas cats and dogs against rabies in addition to raising awareness about rabies and especially educating children on how to handle dogs to prevent them from getting bite.
- Educating students on how to carry out the campaign and as well as showing Veterinary student's field based approaches to perform spays/ neuter.

Methodology:

- Identifying areas with high incidence of rabid animals, large number of stray dogs and cats and lack of Veterinary services in the area meaning a high population of unvaccinated pets and strays.
- Community education using leaflets and posters announcing when the campaign will be carried out.
- Collaborating with other partners to have a higher engagement and successful Rabies vaccination campaign.
- Providing free Rabies vaccination, sterilization (population control) services and community education about Rabies.



Results:

- A total of 500 dogs and cats were vaccinated.
- 135 dogs and cats were surgically sterilized.



Conclusion:

This event was a success due to the experienced team, volunteers and different partners that all contributed. Rabies is a preventable disease, therefore through such campaigns the disease can be reduced.