

## RABIES STILL KILLS ONE PERSON EVERY TEN MINUTES

VICTORIA, BC (July 1, 2010) – ***Veterinarians without Borders – Canada (VWB/VSF) fights to eradicate rabies around the world.*** In recognition of World Rabies day – September 28, 2010 – VWB/VSF is calling on Canadians to help raise awareness about the global rabies issue. The organization’s third annual Rabies Campaign, running throughout the month of September, will help raise funds to support international rabies prevention programs.

While rabies is extremely rare in Canada, the disease continues to be a deadly concern in other parts of the world. Over 55,000 people die from rabies every year – most of the victims are children in Africa and Asia. Unfortunately, the death toll from this disease is thought to be much higher as many cases of rabies are either misdiagnosed or unreported. The sad part is that these deaths are completely preventable. Unlike other deadly diseases, rabies is something that we know how to prevent and treat. The issue really comes down to providing the proper resources and tools for communities in need.

More often than not, the source of human rabies is linked to uncontrolled rabies in dogs. The key to eradication, therefore, means developing comprehensive programs that include sustainable animal vaccination and control as well as providing access to education and treatment.

VWB/VSF is urging Canadians to help spread the word about the global rabies issue and to participate in this year’s Rabies Campaign. “The funds raised during the campaign go directly to supporting our various rabies prevention programs ,” said Dr. Erin Fraser, Managing Director, VWB/VSF. “We wish we could reach out to more communities in need – we constantly have people from all over the world contacting us looking for help. The Rabies Campaign is a chance for us to not only raise awareness about this global problem, but also a way to raise funds to develop more programs.”

Guatemala, India, Malawi and Cambodia are just a few of the countries where VWB/VSF is working to stop rabies. To read more about the organization and their work, please visit [www.vwb-vsfc.ca](http://www.vwb-vsfc.ca).

Participating in the Rabies Campaign is easy! Organize a community event like a pet parade, a charity BBQ, or a dog walk-a-thon. Check out the “fundraising toolkit” on the VWB/VSF website to download all kinds of materials to help you with your fundraising efforts. Generous Canadians raised over \$25,000 during last year’s Rabies Campaign and the organization is hoping to raise even more money this year. The top fundraising teams are eligible to win one of three exciting prizes from Aeroplan.

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Founded in Guelph, Ontario in 2005, VWB/VSF’s mission is to work for, and with, communities in need to foster the health of animals, people, and the environments that sustain us. For more information about the Rabies Campaign and the organization, please visit [www.vwb-vsfc.ca](http://www.vwb-vsfc.ca).