

# Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development (HEARD)

## Training on collecting blood samples from dogs in Amhara Region



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In partnership with



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## Training on collecting blood samples from dogs in Amhara Region

International Livestock Research Institute and Ethiopian Veterinary Association

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# 1. Introduction

For successful accomplishment of activity 6.1 (Supporting public–private partnership [PPP] setup and testing, including sanitary mandate actions), Ethiopian Veterinarians Association (EVA) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in collaboration with regional bureaus/agencies of livestock resources/and pastoral development, have identified feasible PPP models to be tested in the Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development (HEARD) project beneficiary regions (namely: Amhara, Oromia and Somali regions).

Basic trainings were previously provided to experts at regional veterinary laboratories, as well as young jobless women regarding vaccination against Newcastle disease (NCD) and deworming in small ruminants against endemic endoparasites in Banja woreda of Amhara regional state.

Based on further request from regional laboratory experts in Amhara region for delivery of practical training on blood sample collection in dogs, EVA–HEARD has facilitated delivery of the training for 11 experts and private service providers, in collaboration with Amhara Livestock Resources Development Agency (LRDPA), with the key findings presented below.

## 2. Training objectives

Build the capacity (skill) of veterinary laboratory experts and private service providers on collecting blood sample from dogs for detecting seroprevalence and seroconversion against rabies disease.

### 3. Training techniques

Basic awareness was created to the experts on:

1. The possible sites of blood sample collection in dogs (jugular vein, cephalic vein etc.);
2. The need for humane handling of dogs during restraining and collecting blood sample;
3. The need for taking maximum care to avoid contracting zoonotic diseases during sample collection in dogs (e.g. rabies, biting and other physical damages);
4. The need for adhering to strict biosecurity protocols (safe disposal of wastes).

Practical demonstration was made by the trainer on collecting blood samples from cephalic veins of selected dogs, followed by allowing each expert to exercise the same activity from the same blood site. The trainer closely monitored the training participants to avoid inserting needles into wrong sites and disinfecting the site before and after collecting the blood sample.

## 4. Main activities, procedures and achievements—in brief

### Mobilizing training participants:

In close consultation with Amhara region LRDPA and HEARD project coordination team, the training participants were selected and the training setup was arranged while paying maximum attention to the health guidelines to mitigate COVID-19 pandemic. Through woreda veterinary officers, livestock owners were mobilized to avail their dogs for the mission.

### Selecting the trainer:

Earlier communication was made with National Veterinary Institute (NVI) and a senior expert was selected to deliver the proposed training.

### Facilitating training equipment:

Basic training equipment/materials were purchased ahead of commencing the training, including dog muzzle, control poll (restraining material), vacutainer tubes, needles, gauze, cotton, bandage, biosecurity materials, first aid kit, antiseptics etc.

### Training delivery:

The training was delivered through awareness creation and practical demonstration, with close follow up and monitoring of blood sample collection to avoid unnecessary risks.

### Achievements:

Participation: As per the plan, the training was delivered to 9 veterinary experts (6 regional laboratory experts and 3 private service providers in the area), out of which 2 women took part.

### Practical skills development:

After a series of practical demonstrations, the training participants were able to exercise how to collect blood samples from cephalic veins of dogs. Thus, it was clearly observed in the field that the experts have developed their skill on humane handling of dogs, imposing biosecurity measures, professional way of blood collection while taking care to avoid zoonosis and physical damage etc. Thus, the experts were able to collect a total of 82 blood samples (including 10% contingency) from two sites (Akena and Zufari villages).

Facilitating and supporting collecting blood samples and delivery of vaccines against piloted diseases (rabies and NCD) in the same district.

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## 5. Conclusion and recommendations

This practical training on collecting blood samples for detecting seroprevalence and seroconversion was delivered with high level professional expertise with strict adherence to biosecurity guidelines. The training enhanced the practical skills of veterinary laboratory experts and private service providers on how to collect blood samples from dogs for various purposes. Therefore, the training is believed to have achieved the expected outcomes.

The Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development (HEARD) project is financed by the European Union.

Among others, one of the objectives of the project, 'improving the technical competencies of veterinary service providers to enable them to deliver better and provide rationalized services' is jointly implemented by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the Ethiopian Veterinarians Association (EVA). The lead implementer of the HEARD project is the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture.

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