Reviewer’s report

Title: Acceptability of local-made baits for oral vaccination of dogs against rabies in the Philippines

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Reviewer: Dr Cathleen Hanlon

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

When assessing the work, please consider the following issues:

1. Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown: if not, what are the shortcomings and could they be overcome?
   Appropriate statistical tests should be applied to the data in some of the tables so that the conclusion can be objectively supported.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses?
   Yes

3. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes.

4. Is the writing acceptable? Some editorial revision is necessary. There are some specific examples below.

BACKGROUND:
"In the Philippines, traditional mass dog vaccination campaigns have only achieved limited and transient success in dog rabies control. Mainly, because a large segment of the dog population"

Change to..."In the Philippines, traditional mass dog vaccination campaigns have only achieved limited and transient success in dog rabies control, mainly, because a large segment of the dog population"

NB: Consider the term "inexpensive" rather than "cheap". Inexpensive refers to relative economic value. Cheap alludes to quality as well.

CONCLUSION:
"The boiled-intestine bait can be produced at very low costs using locally available material
and is extremely well accepted by local dogs. Hence, providing a realistic opportunity to incorporate oral vaccination of dogs in the national rabies programme of the Philippines."

Change to "The boiled-intestine bait can be produced at very low costs using locally available material and is extremely well accepted by local dogs, hence, providing a realistic opportunity to incorporate oral vaccination of dogs in the national rabies programme of the Philippines."

...However, in other countries, like the Philippines, little progress ...is (change to "has been") made in dog rabies control.

...Partly because (Change to something like "It appears that.") a large segment of the dog population is not accessible for parenteral vaccination, .......

Results
The (boiled and raw) intestine - (edit this hyphen) and chickenneck baits were offered to 116 dogs, 11. . . . restricted and "and 105" ...unrestricted owned dogs, respectively. .......... A total of seven dogs could not be (did not accept any bait) offered a bait. Five and four dogs did not accept the intestine - and chickenneck bait. Change to "Five dogs did not accept the intestine bait and four dogs did not accept the chickenneck bait.

.....It should not be forgotten that the costs associated with this novel approach will ultimately determine the feasibility of OVD...... Change to "Costs associated with this novel approach will ultimately determine the feasibility of OVD...... Material & Methods
The well accepted kofte-bait was not considered suitable for the Philippines, simply while mince meat would also be attractive to humans. change to "A previously described/developed kofte-bait was not considered suitable for the Philippines, due to concerns about it being attractive to humans."

This bait was initially also used for oral vaccination of foxes in Europe [21]. Change to "A chickenhead-bait developed for oral vaccination of foxes in Europe was suggested by WHO to be used as a reference bait."

List of Abbreviations - should be defined in text the first time they are used.
DMMMSU - Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University
OVD - Oral vaccination of dogs against rabies
SAD - Street Alabama Dufferin
WHO - World Health Organization

Competing interests:
None declared.