ASSESSMENT OF IMMUNE STATUS AGAINST RABIES VIRUS UNDER CATCH-NEUTER-VACCINATE-RELEASE (CNVR) PROGRAMME FOR BIRTH CONTROL OF STRAY DOGS

S. Manoharan\textsuperscript{1}, A. Pushkin Raj\textsuperscript{2}, T. Sathyamoorthy\textsuperscript{2}, K. Kulasekar\textsuperscript{2}, D. Kathiresan\textsuperscript{2}, G.D.J. Rao\textsuperscript{2}, B. Justin William\textsuperscript{2} and M. Thirunavukarasu\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}Dept. of Animal Biotechnology, \textsuperscript{2}Directorates of Clinics, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai- 600 007
ulogaimano@yahoo.com

In India, the Animal Welfare Board of India implements the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme through various Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs) and at some places the local bodies/municipalities volunteering to control stray dog menace and rabies besides controlling stray dog population. The present ABC programme are mainly related to post-operative care including feeding and maintenance in the kennels for at least five days which involves considerable expenses to the AWOs. This study was undertaken to evaluate an alternate method to minimize the expenses of ABC programme. Recently a procedure called as Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (CNVR) technique has been proved to be successful in countries like Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia especially after Tsunami. Under the CNVR programme, a total of 42 male and 42 female adult dogs were selected in Chennai and Bangalore cities and were made into five groups including control. The animals were given tissue culture rabies vaccine after the sterilization procedure. Blood samples were collected on 0, 7, 14, and 21 days of this procedure and were used to assess the rabies virus antibody by standard RIPTT method.

In all the groups, antibody levels were satisfactory particularly at 14\textsuperscript{th} and 21\textsuperscript{st} day post vaccination. In some groups, there were individual animal variation in immune response, which may be attributed to many factors like nutrition, worm burden and other stress factors involved. But statistically, there was no difference between groups and also when compared with control group in terms of immune response.