

CHALLENGES TO TACKLING THE GROWING THREAT OF VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

To investigate the growing threat of Vector-Borne Diseases (VBD) and to offer a platform for debate, HealthforAnimals has commissioned an 'industry first' white paper, which has highlighted the following key challenges to tackling VBDs:

1 GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Many VBDs suffer from insufficient government funding not just to incentivise the development and distribution of vaccines, but also to facilitate broader management and control.

2 CLIMATE CHANGE

There is considerable evidence that changes in the phenology and distribution of a wide range of arthropod species have occurred in response to climate change worldwide. This is particularly true for ticks, and there is also some evidence of effects on mosquitoes.

3 SOCIAL & ECONOMIC PRESSURES

Unplanned urbanisation, in combination with inadequate housing often shared with domestic animals, and poor quality water, sewage, and waste management systems, allow for increased transmission of VBDs in and between human and animal populations.

4 HABITAT CHANGE

Habitat change can have a significant impact on VBD incidence, e.g.: major irrigation and flood prevention systems have been built in the past 50 years without regard to their effect on vector-borne disease.

5 PRESSURE FOR ECO-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS

In developed countries, environmental and health concerns have led to restrictions on the types of chemicals that can be used to control outbreaks. These concerns are now spreading to a global level.

6 INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE

For many VBDs, e.g., malaria, dengue and East Coast fever, insecticide resistance is a huge and growing problem. It is probably the single greatest threat to traditional approaches to VBD control.

7 TRAVEL & TRADE

The increased movement of goods, humans, livestock and companion animals worldwide is also an important mechanism for the introduction of new vectors and disease agents.

To read the full white paper report, visit www.healthforanimals.org