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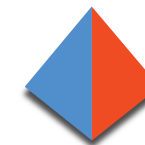
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# 8th Standing Group of Experts on Rabies for Europe

## GF-TADs SGE RAB8

28-29 September 2026

Brussels, Belgium



### GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
PROGRESSIVE CONTROL OF  
TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



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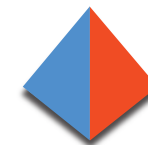
# Rabies oral vaccination for stray dogs in Ukraine – A proposal

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# Rabies remains an important One Health threat in Ukraine

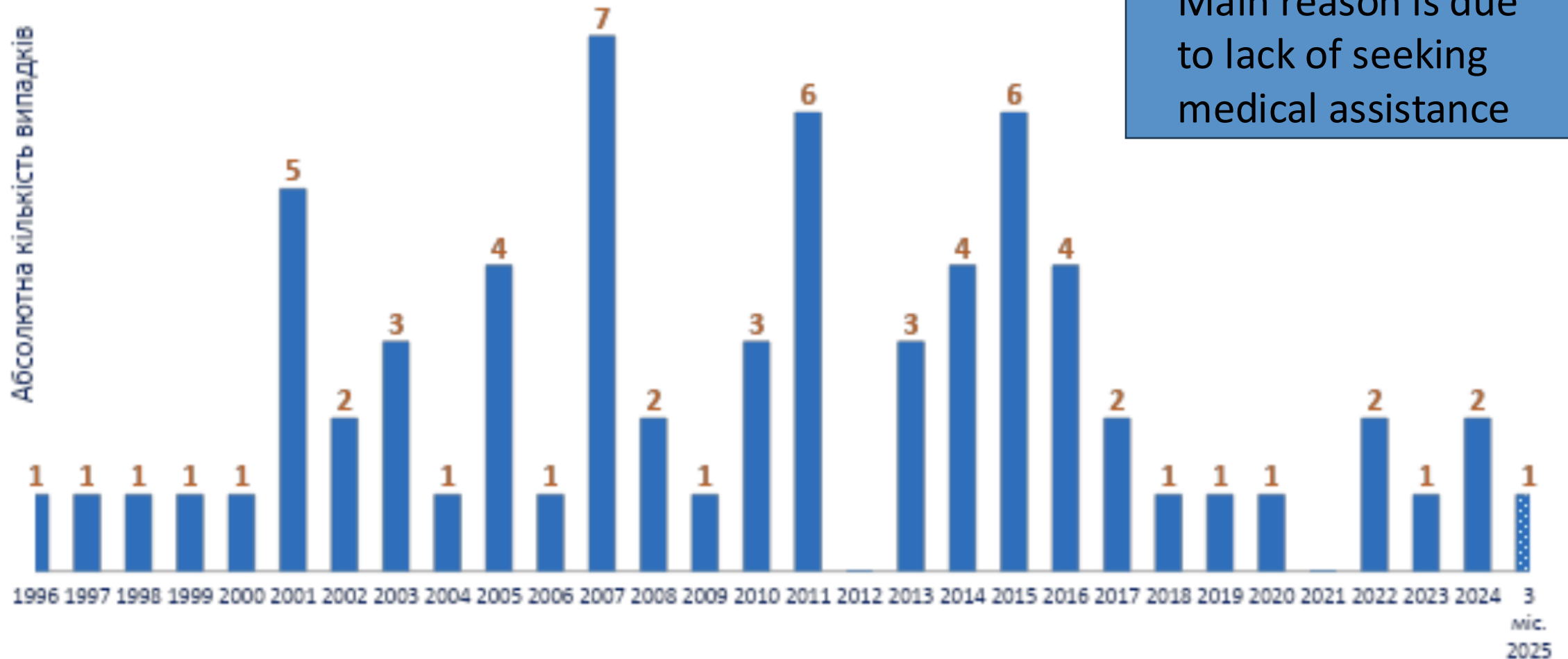
- Maintained at the wildlife - domestic animal interface
- Foxes continuing to play a major role
- Dogs and cats are also important in transmission and human exposure.
- **The war has significantly worsened rabies risks.**
  - Population displacement,
  - Destruction of infrastructure,
  - Reduced access to veterinary services, and
  - Abandonment of owned animals

# Rabies cases in humans , Ukraine 1996- September 2025



ЦЕНТР  
ГРОМАДСЬКОГО  
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Main reason is due  
to lack of seeking  
medical assistance



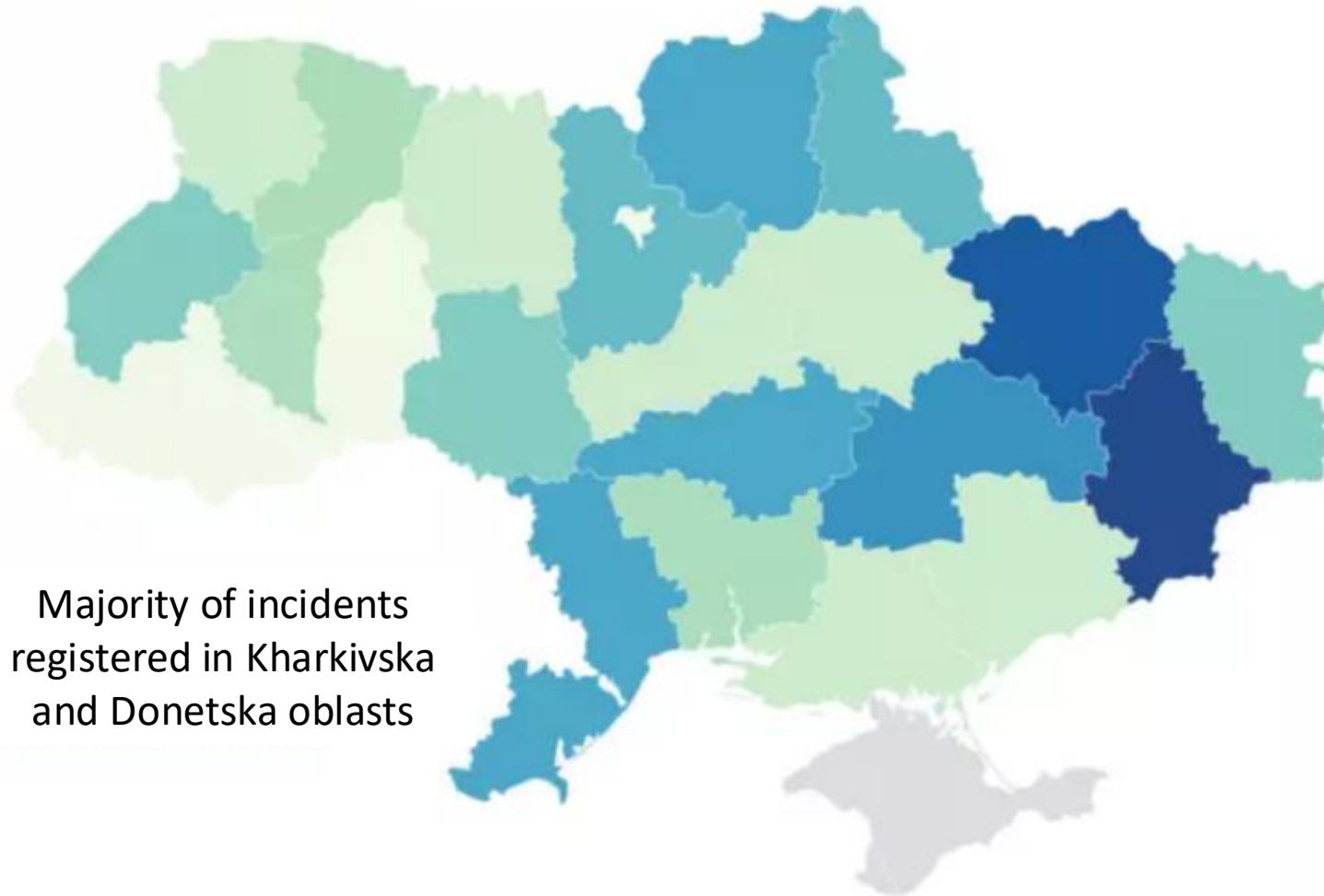
Джерело: форма №2 (річна) «Звіт про окремі інфекції та паразитарні захворювання за 20\_\_ рік»

# Rabies cases in humans with geographical distribution, Ukraine 1996 - September 2025

Center for Public Health



ЦЕНТР  
ГРОМАДСЬКОГО  
ЗДОРОВ'Я



Majority of incidents  
registered in Kharkivska  
and Donetska oblasts

## Sources of human rabies cases in Ukraine since 1996



39%



16%



36%



1%

7%

# Trends in reported human exposure to rabid animals through bites and saliva, Ukraine 2007-September 2025

Center for Public Health



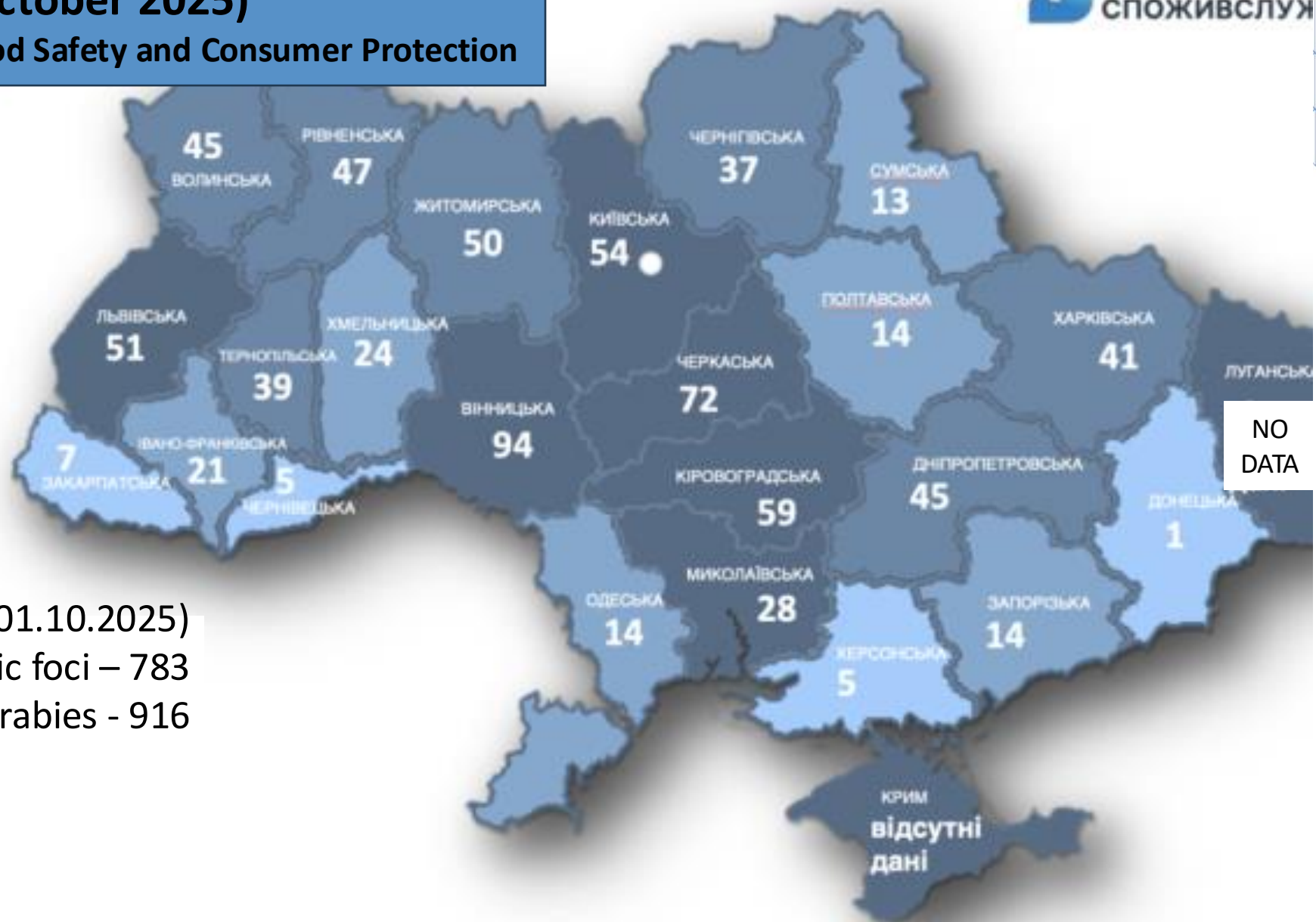
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# Identified rabies epizootic foci (as of 1 October 2025)

State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection

- 1-10
- 11-25
- 26-50
- 51-100

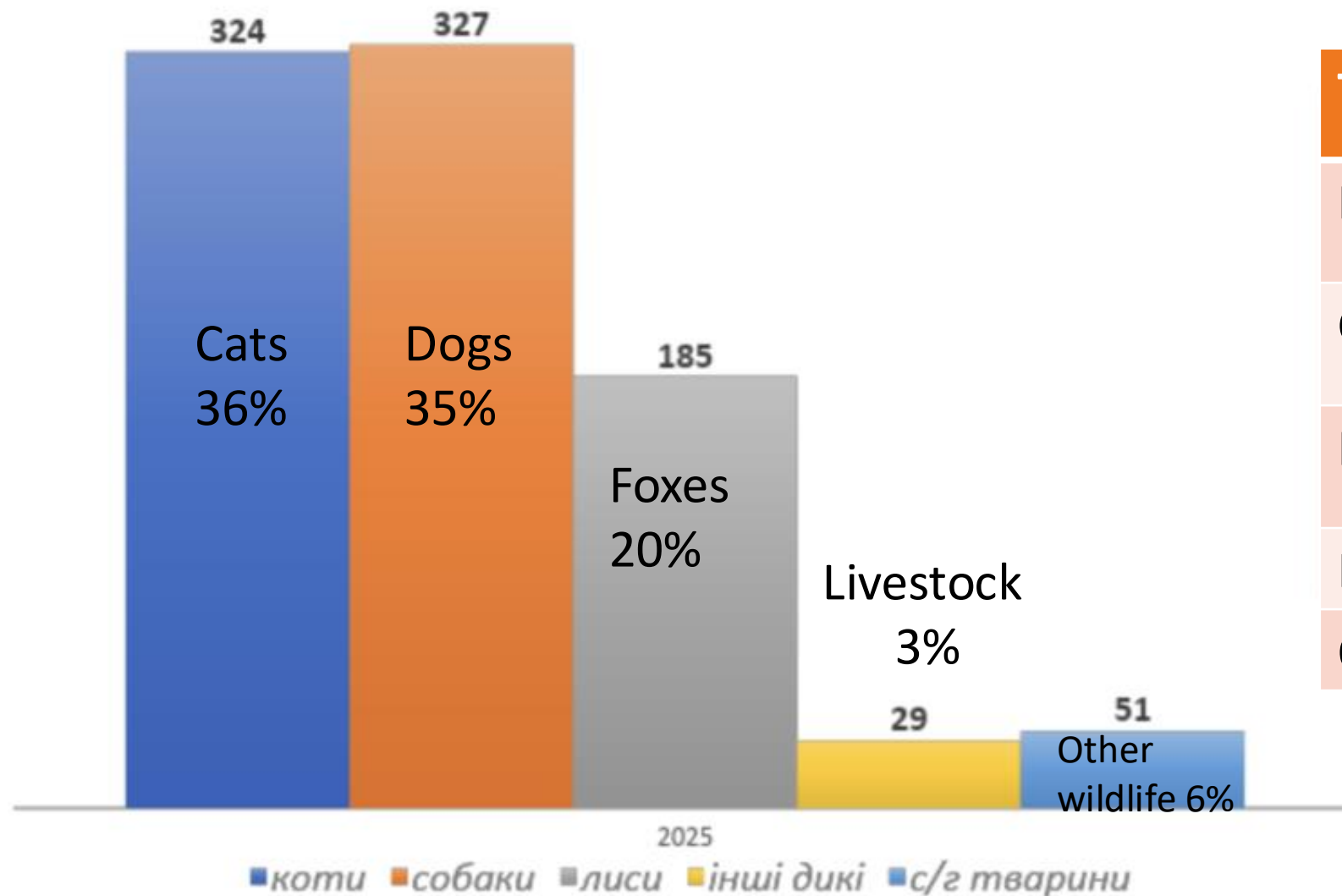


(as for 01.10.2025)

Epizootic foci – 783

Animals diagnosed with rabies - 916

# Distribution of rabies cases in Animals Jan-Sep 2025



| Type of animal | %    |
|----------------|------|
| Dogs           | 35,7 |
| Cats           | 35,3 |
| Foxes          | 20,2 |
| Livestock      | 3,2  |
| Other wildlife | 5,6  |

## Stray dogs population data

- No reliable national data on the population of stray animals in Ukraine.
- From general estimates of media outlets and NGOs working with pets/emergency animal support: range from 200,000 to 500,000 animals, with some sources estimating more than 1 million stray animals.



# Oral Vaccination (OV) in Ukraine

- Vast experience with oral rabies vaccination for wildlife, particularly targeting wild carnivores.

2023: more than 118,000 km<sup>2</sup>

2024: more than 250,000 km<sup>2</sup>

2025: nearly 276,000 km<sup>2</sup>

\* As of 1 June 2026, the spring campaign had already covered more than 121,000 km<sup>2</sup>



## Injectable Vaccination limitations

- However, injectable vaccination alone may not be sufficient to reach **free-roaming, abandoned, fearful, or difficult-to-handle dogs**.
- These dogs are most likely to remain outside conventional vaccination coverage.
- Thus, strong rationale for oral vaccination of stray dogs
- Not as a replacement for injectable vaccination



# Oral vaccination in Dogs (OV)

- FAO, WHO, WOA, and United Against Rabies recognize OV as a practical option to support dog rabies control where conventional parenteral vaccination cannot achieve adequate coverage.
- **CEVA's development of Rabitec<sup>®</sup> for dogs** is therefore, highly relevant
- Rabitec<sup>®</sup> is a third-generation OV designed for free-roaming & difficult-to-catch dogs, using bait-based delivery
- It may be useful in conflict-affected or hard-to-access settings, where catching dogs is dangerous, costly, or operationally unrealistic.



# Piloting

Exploring as a targeted, evidence-based intervention in selected high-risk areas, especially where there is overlapping between:

- stray dog density,
- animal rabies cases,
- bite incidents,
- limited veterinary access

## **A phased pilot could assess:**

- bait acceptance,
- safety,
- field feasibility,
- vaccination coverage,
- community acceptance,
- Logistics
- integration with existing rabies surveillance and dog population management activities.

## Challenges

- Will require official registration or regulatory authorization (or the issuing of a temporary licence)
- Close coordination with veterinary and public health authorities
- Aligned with national rabies control plans
- Embedded in a broader One Health package





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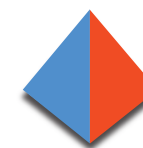
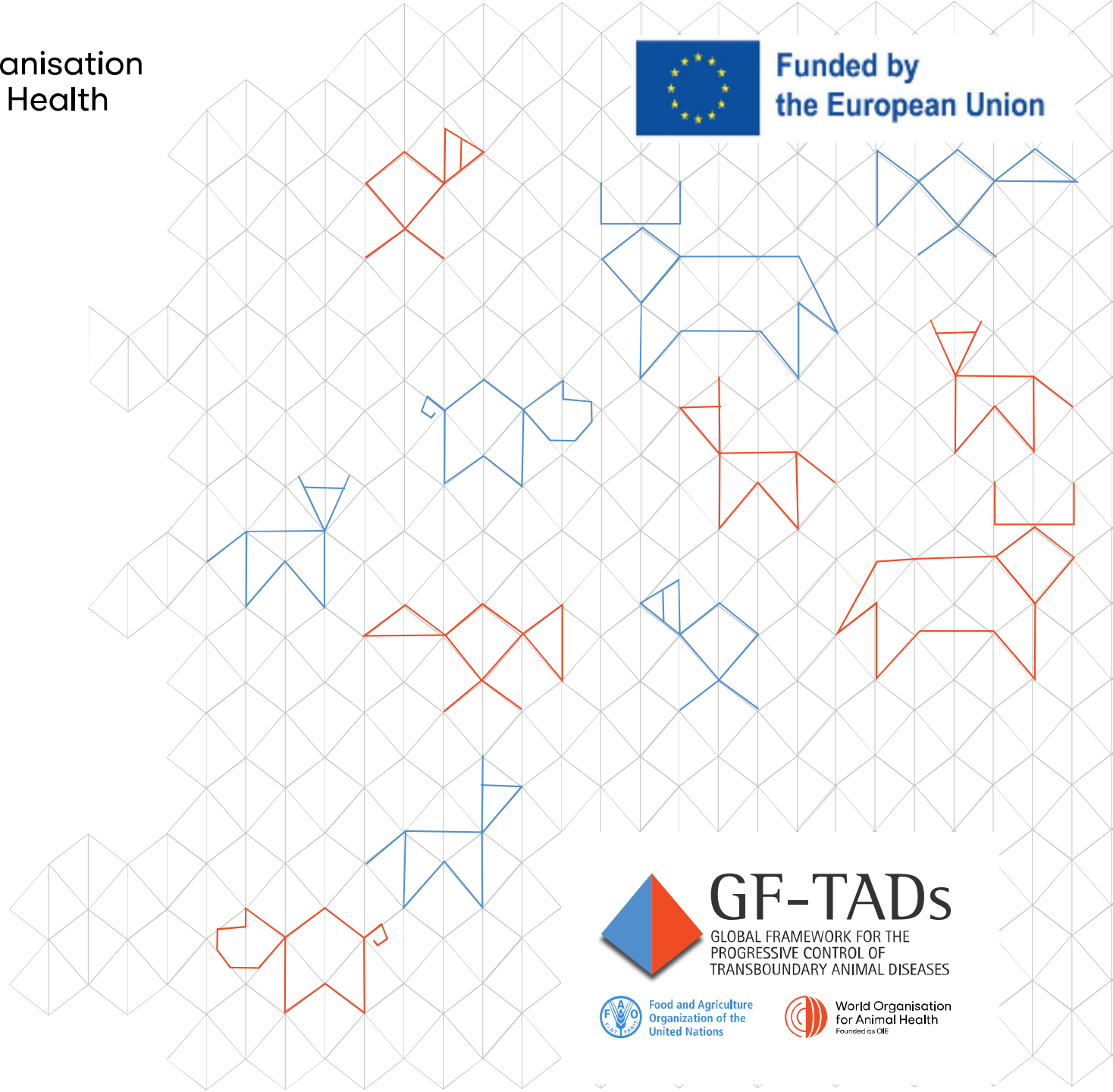


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Thank you!



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