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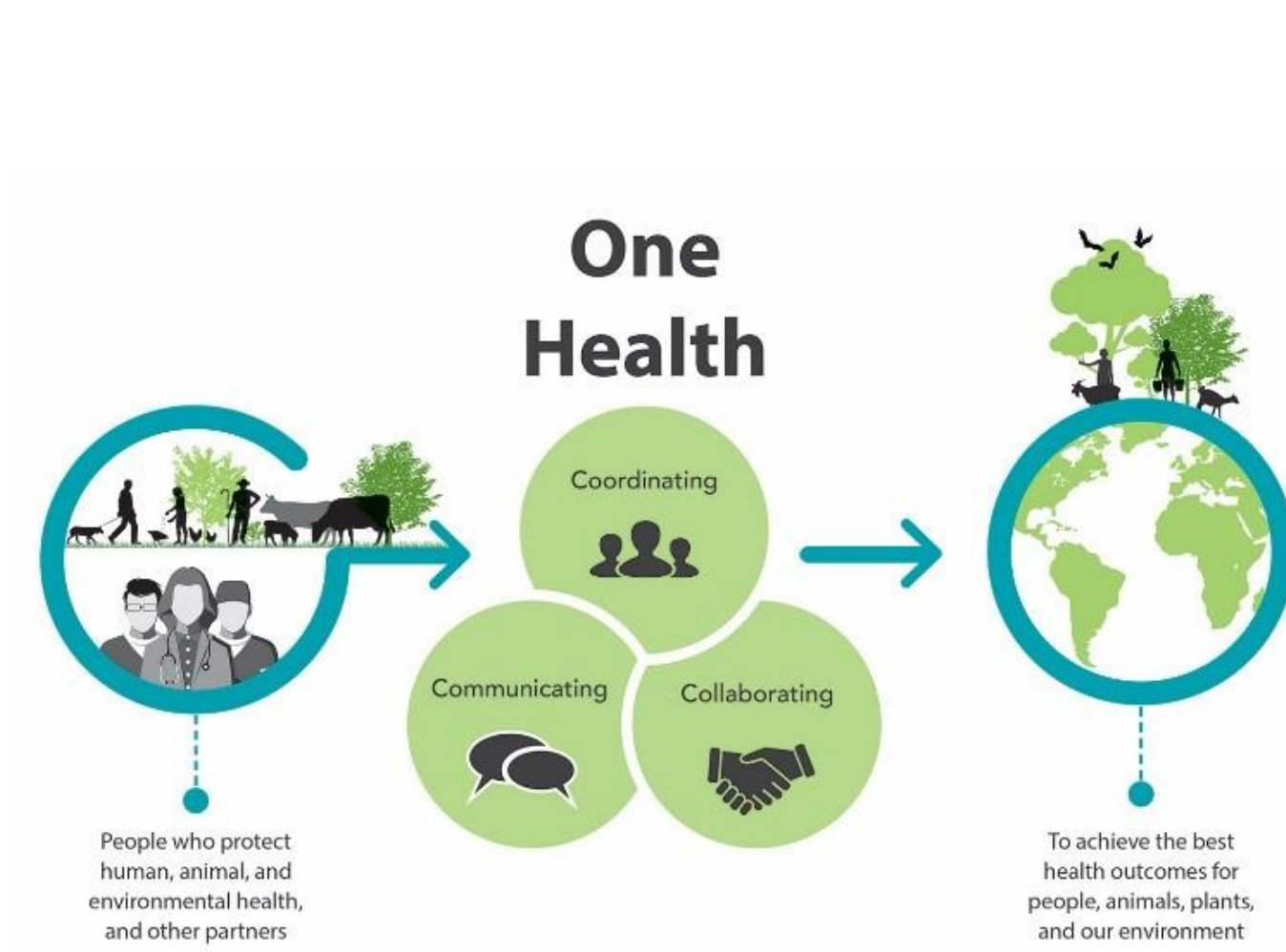
History of rabies vaccination in Colombia: a current need for a One Health approach

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Introduction & Objective

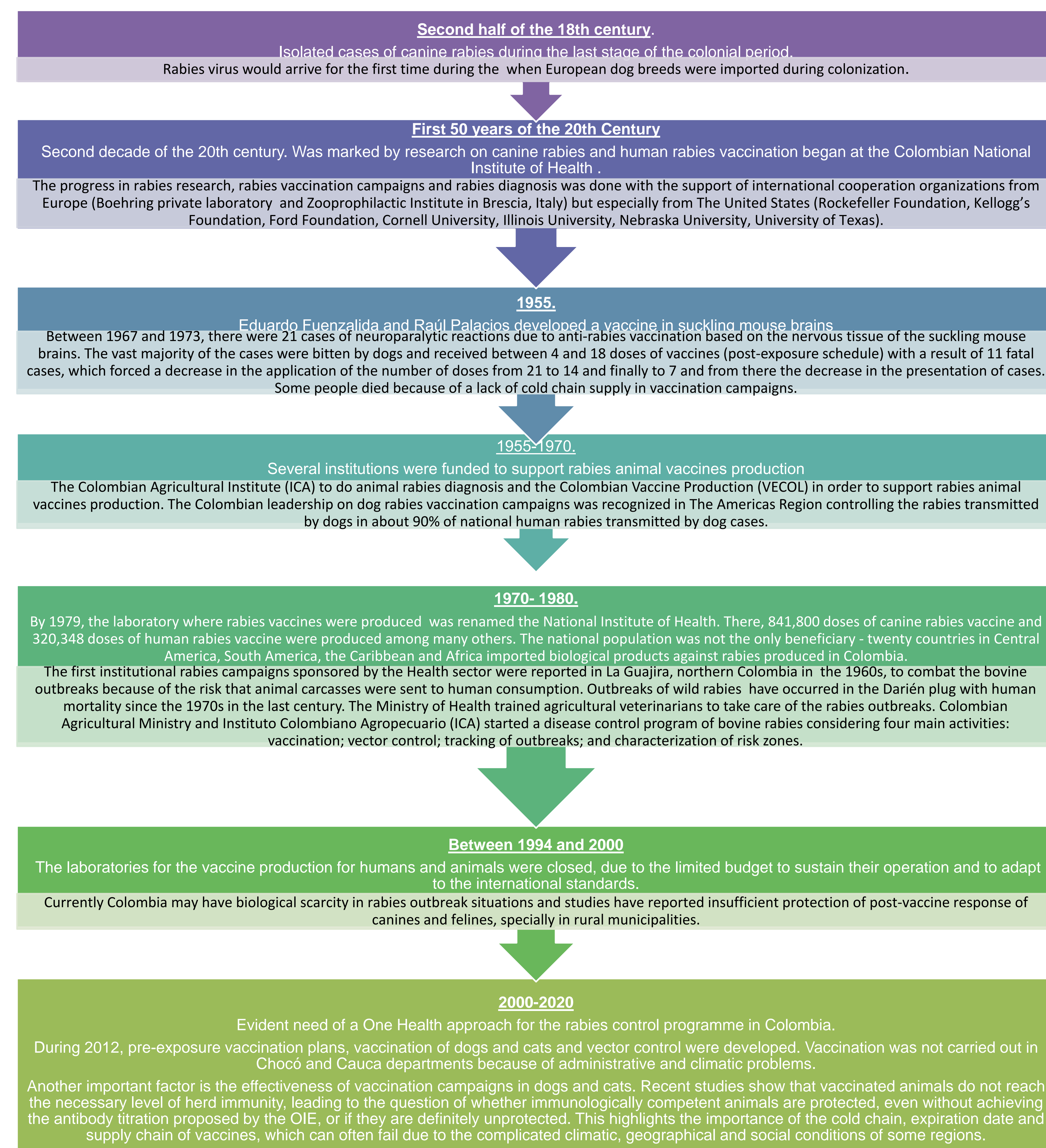


<https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/resource-library/one-health-graphics.html>

The Colombian leadership in the vaccination campaigns against canine rabies was recognized in the Region of the Americas in the control of rabies transmitted by dogs. However, the decentralization of public health services generated a fragmentation of the national control of rabies in the country. We analyzed the history of rabies vaccination in Colombia to understand the strengths and weakness of the Program, evidencing the need for a One Health approach for long-term planning, thus integrating stakeholders belonging to the human-animal-ecosystem interface to the four C's: communicating, coordinating, collaborating and capacity building.

Results

Figure 1. Colombian timeline of rabies vaccination history.

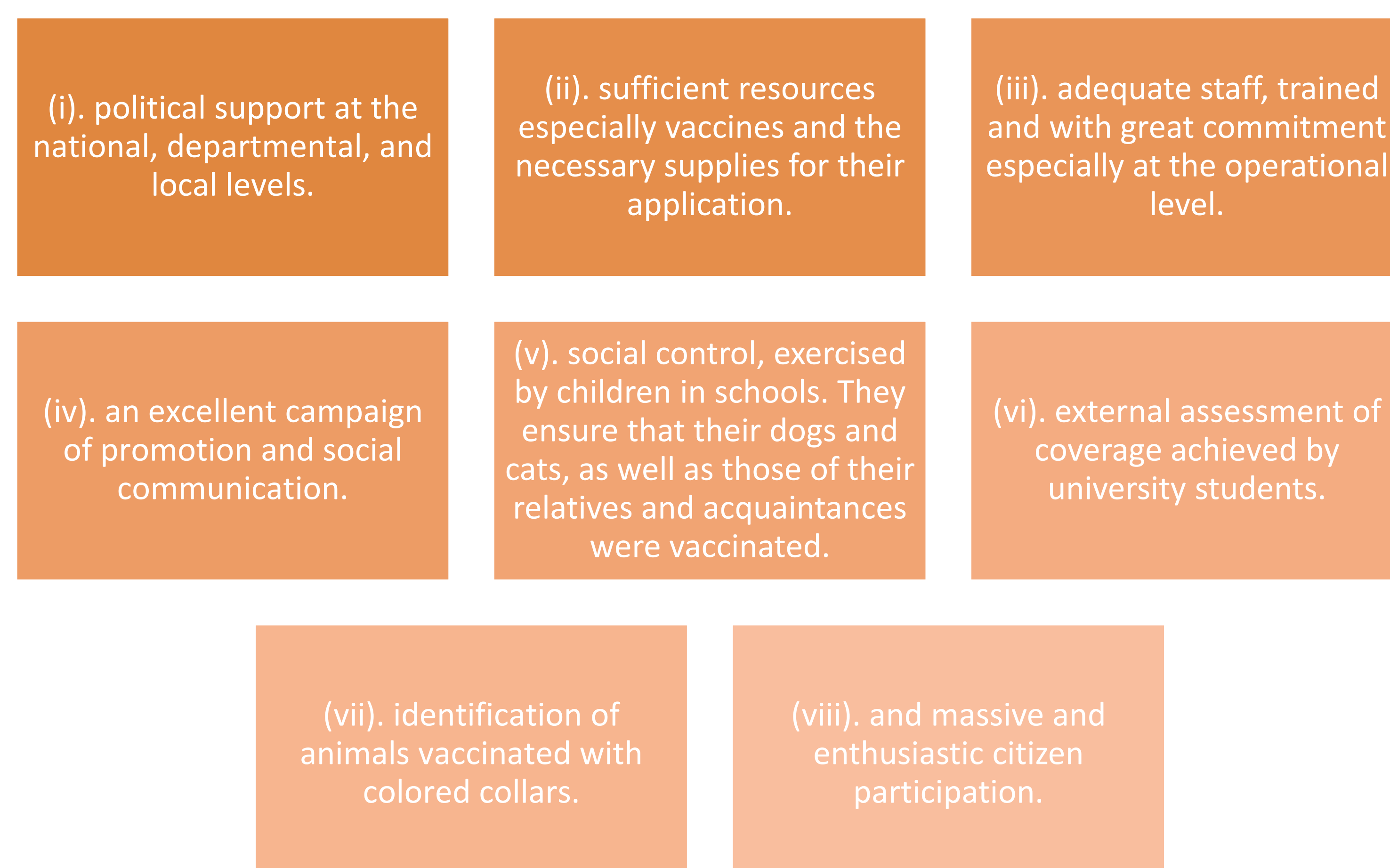


Materials & Methods

1. Literature review on rabies history in Colombia.
2. Developing a timeline for rabies vaccination in Colombia. See Figure 1 and 2.
3. Description of the strengths and weakness of the vaccination program in Colombia and the need for a One health approach.

In 1965, in Valle del Cauca, Dr. Elmer Escobar achieved results as well: reduction from 25 to 0 human cases, reduction from 436 to 8 cases of animal rabies, reduction of 5,330 people bitten to 3,755 and reduction from 4,079 people vaccinated against rabies to 935. It was an advanced program created in Colombia, which was subsequently adopted in several countries throughout the continent. The participation of the private sector, the general community and the 4 C's of the One health approach: **coordination, communication, collaboration and capacity building** were essential for the successful results.

Figure 2. The successful "Cali Free of Canine Rabies" campaign adopted a motivating slogan that read: "A commitment from Cali, vaccinating 100,000 dogs against rabies".



Conclusions

Rabies is likely the best documented example for the added value of closer collaboration of human, veterinary medicine and environmental sciences. An effective One Health approach to eliminate rabies requires long-term planning, multisectoral communication, coordination, collaboration and sustained surveillance efforts. This approach must include the engagement of local involvement of the pharmaceutical industry, academia, the veterinary associations, NGOs, the education sector, the general community.