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Livestock Identification and Registration System (LIRS) as an integrated tool for a community rabies vaccination program, A pilot project from Vietnam.

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This study presents an evaluation of the Livestock Identification and Registration System (LIRS) as an integrated tool for a community rabies vaccination program in two communes of Tây Ninh province and commnues of Dong Thap province, Vietnam, in 2025. The study aimed to assess the factors influencing the acceptance of maintenance fees and to gather feedback from pet owners after a four-month trial period.

The initial phase of the trial, conducted in April 2025 in Tay Ninh with 1280 dogs and in Dec 2025 in Dong Thap with 600 tags. The trial has successfully identified 70.9% and 42.8%of the total pet population and 93.6 and 74.8 % of vaccinated animals using LIRS in Tay Ninh and Dong Thap, respectively. A significant finding was that 81.21% of households (in Tay Ninh) agreed to pay an annual fee of 24,000 VND per pet to maintain access to the system. The level of education was found to be a key factor influencing this willingness to pay, with a higher educational background correlating with a greater understanding of benefits and therefore acceptance of the fee. However, a follow-up survey in Tay Ninh province after four months revealed significant challenges with the durability of the physical tags. Only 15.62% of pets retained both the collar and the QR code tag, while a substantial number lost either the tag or both items due to pets' physical activity (51.16%) or irritation from the collar (21.46%). The free ranging dogs behavior with new collars explained the lost, where first time wearing collars might cause the sensitivity to collar irritationdue to irregular use.

In conclusion, the LIRS system pilot shows great potential for digitalizing pet management and supporting rabies control efforts. To ensure its long-term viability, recommendations include improving the durability of the collars and QR codes (piloting new tags materials and technology), enhancing community outreach, and fully integrating LIRS into annual vaccination campaigns. This approach could provide a sustainable model for rabies control, advancing Vietnam's goal of eliminating rabies in humans by 2030.