

Dr. Deborah Briggs Introduces Herself (2:41 minutes)

Time Stamp 00:00:00: My background relating to public health began as the director of the Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory at Kansas State University in the College of Veterinary Medicine. And from there and answering phones, and realizing that there was a lot of information and questions coming in from the general public, I began to get more and more interested in public health as an issue. And then I had an opportunity to travel overseas and work with various entities that were involved with rabies, and from there, it just got bigger and bigger.

Time Stamp 00:00:30: My motivation is basically because I have seen so many people die of rabies. And I hear about it. I hear about families that have lost children, and it's such a tragic story. So when I retired about five years ago, I decided that it was time to really start thinking about what we could do as rabies experts around the world, so I began to work with Dr. Sarah Cleveland and others in the field of rabies to put together a not-for-profit organization, and the not-for-profit organization that we began with—excuse me—the not-for-profit organization that we began with was in the UK, and in the UK, it's against the law to receive a salary as an executive director, and so I started out not getting a salary as an executive director and just continued because it has been a wonderful experience, and it's actually freeing not to think that you have to work for a particular salary and do particular things. You can actually do what's best.

Time Stamp 00:01:52: My background in education began as a PhD student here at Kansas State University, and I graduated from the department of diagnostic medicine in the college of veterinary medicine, and from there took the position of director at the rabies lab, and continued to work on rabies in both humans and animals. Regarding humans, it was in being involved in clinical trials, and regarding animals, it was through the diagnostics and through serology and that sort of thing. And then I took a sabbatical and came back and worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the rabies lab for about a year before I officially retired.