

Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No. 88_Rabies (19 - 25 December 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January - 14 November 2016, there were 13 human rabies deaths reported from 9 provinces.

The highest rabies incidence rates were found in 55-64 years, over 65 years and 35-44 years age groups respectively. The highest incidence rates occurred in the central region followed by the northern region. The incidence was lowest in the north-eastern region.

The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) revealed that this year the number of laboratory confirmed animal rabies was twice higher than those of the past 3 years (2013-2015).



According to this week disease forecast, there is a possible occurrence of human rabies cases during November to February as most cases were found during this period of the past five years.

Rabies is always 100% fatal. Rabies patients were those bitten by rabid dogs but did not receive or had incomplete rabies post-exposure treatment. The Department of Disease Control (DDC) therefore strongly recommends that the person bitten by a dog or cat wash the wound with soap and water immediately and thoroughly for a minimum of 15 minutes. Povidone iodine should then be applied into the wound to kill the rabies virus and other pathogens. The suspected animal must be kept and observed for 10 days. The person then should seek medical attention for wound treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as soon as possible. In case of bitten by rabies suspected animal, the course of immunization must be completed as per the medical appointment. Report the bite to livestock officers, village livestock volunteers, village health volunteers or community leaders immediately. These people will help sending the corpse for rabies laboratory diagnosis if the animal dies during the observation period.

The DDC also advise people to avoid a dog bite by observing the 5 Don't, i.e. 1) panic, make loud noises, or encourage it to play aggressively, 2) accidentally step on a dog, 3) try to separate fighting dogs with bare hands, 4) disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies, and 5) approach an unfamiliar dog or pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first. Furthermore, don't let small children play with a dog unsupervised. When approached by an unfamiliar dog, remain motionless, don't run.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422.



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