

Department of Disease Control

Weekly disease forecast No.98_Rabies

(6 – 12 March 2017)

From the national disease surveillance system, during 2011 - 2014, human rabies cases were 8, 4, 7, and 5 cases respectively. However, in 2016 the number rose to 13 cases.

The Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute revealed that since January 2017 there were 134 animal rabies cases from some provinces in all regions of the country.

Last week a stray dog in Nonthaburi province was found dead from rabies. Immediate attempt to prevent outbreaks was done by issuing an announcement of a temporary outbreak area. Thus, 6 suspected dogs were caught and kept in the Department of Livestock Development (DLD)'s animal quarantine station for the disease observation.



According to this week disease forecast, rabies may continue to occur especially in areas with low coverage of animal rabies vaccination and frequent movement of dogs and cats. The Department of Disease Control therefore strongly recommends that owners bring their dogs and cats to receive the annual most cost-effective rabies vaccination.

If a person is bitten or scratched by dogs or cats, he or she should 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. Medical consideration on rabies post-exposure treatment at a hospital nearby is urgent and crucial for live saving.

Furious rabid dogs may show symptoms including excitability, overt aggressive and attack behavior, dropped jaw and tail, excessive salivation or frothy saliva. Dumb rabies in dogs is characterized by weakness and loss of coordination, followed by paralysis. In case of confronting these rabid animals, inform livestock officers, village livestock volunteers, village health volunteers or community leaders immediately for safely capture of the animals.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422 or DLD at 02 653 4412.

