

# Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.142\_Rabies (8 – 14 January 2018)



From the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January – 31 December 2017, there were 8 human rabies deaths. Two deaths each were in Chonburi and Chachoengsao and 1 death each was in Ubonratchathani, Buriram, Surin, and Samutprakan provinces. All victims did not receive any rabies post-exposure vaccination.

In 2017, laboratory examination revealed 825 rabies positive animal specimens. These rabid animals were dogs (87.64%), cattle (6.79%), cats (4.61%) and others (0.97%). The rabid animals were owned (52.85%), stray (34.55%) and unknown (12.61%).

In the past week, two human rabies deaths were found in Chonburi and Roi-et provinces.

According to this week disease forecast, human rabies may still occur especially in the eastern and northeastern regions of the country.

The Department of Disease Control (DDC) strongly advises people to be aware that rabies is 100% fatal. Owners therefore should strictly follow the best cost-effective measure by bringing their 3-month-old dogs and cats to receive the first rabies vaccination and annually thereafter.

Animal rabies can be categorized into two types, i.e. 1) furious rabies which symptoms include excitability, overt aggressive and attack behavior, dropped jaw and tail, excessive salivation or frothy saliva, and 2) dumb rabies that symptoms are characterized by weakness and loss of coordination, followed by paralysis.

A person bitten by a suspected animal should wash the wound with soap and water thoroughly for a minimum of 15 minutes and apply povidone iodine into the wound to kill the rabies virus and other pathogens. The person should then seek a medical attention for wound treatment and rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) immediately. Delay in getting the PEP will be risky and might result in death. The suspected animal must be kept properly and observed for 10 days. If it dies within this observation period, the carcass must be sent to a laboratory for rabies examination.

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

