

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.151_Rabies

(12 – 18 March 2018)

This year up to present, from the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) has found 3 human rabies deaths. The deaths were in Surin, Songkhla and Trang provinces. All victims did not seek any rabies post-exposure treatment after dog bites.

In 2017, there were 11 human rabies deaths. The DDC study showed that 82% of people who were bitten by dogs cleaned the wounds by themselves while only 18% sought medical treatment at the hospital. Around half of the biting dogs were stray and most of them (89.7%) did not receive any rabies vaccine or had no history of vaccination.



According to this week disease forecast, the occurrence of human rabies is likely to continue as risk of dog bite among children during school vacation may increase.

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 2-month-old dogs and cats to receive the first rabies vaccination and annually thereafter. In addition, DDC also advises parents to take care of their children and do not let them stay close to stray dogs and cats or those with unusual behavior. In case of finding suspected rapid dead dogs, cats or mammals or animals with furious or dump rabies, a report to the Department of Livestock Development at Tel. 02-653-4415, Provincial Livestock Development Office, Community Leaders, Livestock Volunteers, or Village Health Volunteers, is crucial.

A person bitten by a suspected rabid animal should immediately wash the wound with soap and water thoroughly 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) as soon as possible. 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.



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