

Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No.153_Rabies (26 March – 1 April 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system during 1 January to 22 March 2018, the Department of Disease Control (DDC) revealed 6 human rabies deaths in 6 provinces, i.e. Surin, Buriram, Nakhonratchasima, Prachuabkirikhan, Songkhla, and Trang.

During 1 January to 21 March 2018, the animal rabies surveillance by the Department of Livestock Development found 444 out of 3,261 (13.62%) suspected animals from 37 provinces to be rabies positive. Rabid animals were dogs (91.76%), cattle (5.86%) and cats (2.48%). Rabid dogs and cats were stray (41.14%) and 87.79% did not receive rabies 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) therefore strongly advises people to be aware that rabies is 100% fatal. Owners 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 dogs, cats or mammals 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 or scratched by a suspected rabid animal should immediately wash the wound with soap and water thoroughly and apply povidone iodine (if not available, tincture iodine can be used) 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. Notify also the concerned officers or volunteers for advice. 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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