

Department of Disease Control

Weekly Disease Forecast No.48_Rabies

(7 - 13 March 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January to 1 March 2016, there were 3 rabies deaths in Songkhla, Samut Prakan and Rayong provinces, and 2 imported rabies deaths from Myanmar in Tak province.

During the past 5 years, there were approximately 5 to 7 rabies cases per year who were bitten by dogs but did not receive or had incomplete rabies post-exposure treatment. Each year there were around 13,000 people who had incomplete rabies post-exposure treatment.

Most of the rabid dogs were 3 to 6 months old. In 2016, around 330 rabid dogs were found in 20 provinces. The highest rabies cases were in Songkhla, Samut Prakan, Kalasin and Chonburi provinces.



This week disease forecast reveals unusual high numbers of rabies cases in some areas including border provinces. Rabies is always 100% fatal but it is a vaccine preventable disease in both animals and humans. People who are bitten by animals should seek medical advice and consideration immediately whether there is a need to receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) including vaccination.

The Department of Disease Control strongly recommends that owners bring their dogs and cats to receive the most cost-effective vaccination yearly. 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 be applied into the wound to kill the rabies virus. Medical care including post-exposure treatment at a hospital nearby is urgent and crucial.

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.

