

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.46\_Rabies

(22 - 28 February 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, there were 7 reported rabies incidents last week. Two were human rabies deaths occurred in Songkhla and Samut Prakan provinces. Both patients were bitten by stray puppies brought home. One death was laboratory confirmed positive while the other is pending.

The 5 animal rabies incidents were found in 2 dogs in Kalasin province, 2 cows in Songkhla and Phatthalung provinces. One incident was a cow bitten by a dog in Nakhon Si Thammarat province.

In 2016 there were 5 human and 330 animal rabies deaths.



This week disease forecast reveals unusual numbers of rabies incidents. 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 annual most cost-effective 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 also be applied into the wound to kill the rabies virus. Medical care 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.

