

Department of Disease Control Weekly Disease Forecast No. 75_Rabies (12 - 18 September 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, during 1 January – 4 September 2016, there were 7 reported human rabies deaths. All were bitten by suspect rabid dogs without or with no known rabies vaccination. The bitten victims did not come to seek any rabies post-exposure treatment (PEP).

In 2016, there were 353 laboratory confirmed animal rabies in 41 provinces. Most of the positive specimens (84.7%) were dogs, followed by cow, cat and buffalo respectively.

The man died of rabies this week in Bangkok was bitten by a stray dog but did not seek post-exposure vaccination. He developed clinical signs of rabies 2 months after the dog bite.



According to this week disease forecast, rabies cases may be found sporadically all year round especially in some areas of the eastern, central, and southern regions where rabies had occurred repeatedly.

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 and consideration regarding PEP 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.

