



ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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INDIA

05 Feb 2015: Kollam trembles as rabid dogs, strays run amok

People here are scared to step out of their homes for the fear of stray dogs, but authorities seem to be oblivious of the problem. Till February 4 2015, 825 people have sought treatment at government hospitals in the district for dog bites. These include women, children and senior citizens. Last year, 8,797 people had to get anti-rabies shots in the district after they were bitten by strays. Also, a youth died of rabies after he was bitten by a stray at Thalachira. There are no corresponding figures available from private hospitals. Eight people, including a seven-year old playing in front of his home at Maruthady, were bitten by a stray the other day. [read more](#)

08 Feb 2015: Tribal in Koraput acquires anthrax after eating dead goat

A medical team from District Headquarter Hospital reached Patenda village under Lamataput block to examine 42 villagers, who are suspected to be affected by anthrax. At least 43 tribals of the village had consumed meat of two dead goats a few days back and spores of anthrax were found in one of them. He was admitted to the health centre in Lamataput village, where his condition is stated to be stable. Sources said while all other villagers who had consumed the meat also developed illness and showed symptoms of anthrax, doctors are yet to confirm it. [read more](#)

09 Feb 2015: Over 200, H1N1 deaths in less than two months raising concerns

Around 215 deaths from H1N1 have been reported so far this year across India, in contrast to 238 deaths in 2014 raising fears of an epidemic. Hundreds more have tested positive in these states. There is also a rise in mortality rate seen this time with deterioration in infected people being swift and patients dying within two days of reporting the case. Doctors treating patients say that anti-viral drugs such as Tamiflu and Oseltamivir seem to have no effect. With 81 deaths in Rajasthan, 71 in Gujarat, 30 in Telangana, six in Karnataka and a few deaths from Maharashtra and Haryana, the air-borne virus looks set to cause more damage. [read more](#)

OTHER

FAO: Addressing Zaire Ebola virus (EBV) outbreaks: Rapid qualitative exposure and release assessment

Following the ongoing outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in several African countries reported since March 2014, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) prepared a rapid qualitative exposure and release assessment in order to evaluate the role of meat from wild animals and related activities linked to Zaire Ebola virus (EBOV) in human populations. The likelihood for human exposure to EBOV through close contact with wild species, hunting, handling and consumption of meat from different wild species as well as the likelihood of introduction and onward transmission of EBOV in non-infected countries through the consumption and trade of wild animal meat are assessed in this document. This rapid qualitative assessment is based upon information available up to 18 December 2014 and will be revised as circumstances change. [read more](#)

07 Feb 2015: High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is spreading under resident birds and dogs in Asia

The current outbreaks of HPAI is a growing concern since the virus is spreading via migratory birds and is causing other animal species becoming carrier of the virus. With 95% of Taiwan's population of gees and ducks on farms being culled within a time frame of 3 weeks, and the current spreading to layer- and turkey farms, it is absolutely necessary for the veterinary authorities in Taiwan and South Korea to step up their emergency control measures and to improve the bio security during outbreak situations. *H5N3 causes mortality amongst resident birds in Taiwan, Antigens of H5N3 found in dogs in South Korea.* [read more](#)

09 Feb 2015: As MERS persists, WHO cites hospital-linked clusters

Saudi Arabia reported two more MERS-CoV cases over the weekend, and today the World Health Organization (WHO) said inadequate hospital infection control measures may be partly to blame for the continuing series of cases in the country. At the same time, the WHO said the overall transmission pattern for MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) has not changed in the past several months, with no sign of sustained human-to-human transmission or airborne. [read more](#)

11 Feb 2015: High tech tools to fight bird flu

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics team up to develop high tech tools to fight bird flu and other infectious diseases. Working closely with FAO, SIB experts have developed tools to improve early detection and fast alert systems to prevent and respond to transboundary disease emergencies in poultry or livestock. [read more](#)