



ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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INDIA

16 Apr 2015: Six-year-old victim shows symptoms of rabies at PGI

In a shocking revelation, doctors at the PGI today diagnosed suggestive symptoms of the rabies infection in a six-year-old girl from Mani Majra, who was badly bitten on her lips by a ferocious stray dog on March 25. Sadia, the victim, was rushed to the PGI paediatric emergency this afternoon after her uncle noticed froth oozing out of her mouth and her voice turning hoarse. Both these symptoms, coupled with her phobia about air (looking at the fan) and water after being taken to the emergency, are pointing towards the possibility of rabies, according to doctors. [read more](#)

21 Apr 2015: Bird Flu in Manipur, culling of fowl starts

Bird flu or avian influenza has resurfaced in northeastern state of Manipur and the culling of poultry fowl began on Monday, official said. Manipur Chief Secretary PC Lawmkunga told reporters: "Samples of sick poultry birds from the ICAR (Indian Council of Agriculture Research) poultry unit at Lamphelpat were found to contain H5 strain of avian influenza virus." Bhopal-based National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases has confirmed the outbreak of Avian Influenza at the poultry unit of ICAR. [read more](#)

22 Apr 2015: Veterinary officials slaughtered 250,000 birds in Telangana district due to HPAI H5N1 outbreak

Veterinary officials ordered 250,000 birds to be slaughtered in India's Telangana district, after cases of the H5N1 virus were identified. Veterinary staff from the local government's animal husbandry department carried out the cull – which included destroying hundreds of thousands of infected eggs – at Thorur village in the Ranga Reddy district. The chickens and other poultry have been culled by twisting the neck, following the outbreak of a highly contagious strain of bird flu in India. The virus which can be deadly in humans, caused the deaths of nearly 400 people and hundreds of millions of poultry after it spread from Asia into Europe and Africa. Killing birds by twisting the neck is extremely labor intensive and demands hundreds of responders. [read more](#)

PAKISTAN

23 Apr 2015: Teacher falls victim to shortage of anti-rabies vaccine

The non-availability of anti-rabies vaccine at the Rural Health Centre in Allahabad claimed the life of a retired schoolteacher while his son is struggling for survival. Haji Muhammad Baloch of Bhagiwal Tibba village said his father Nazir Ahmed and brother Abdul Razzaq, 35, had been bitten by a stray dog on April 1. He said the staff at the RHC in Allahabad refused to provide treatment because of the shortage of the anti-rabies vaccine. [read more](#)

OTHERS

22 Apr 2015: Stepping up coordination efforts for better understanding MERS at the human-animal interface

Human infections with the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) continue to be reported from the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East. Since April 2012, over 1, 106 confirmed human cases, including 421 deaths, have been reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). The majority of cases have occurred in Saudi Arabia. Although the pattern of transmission appears relatively unchanged, the overall situation and the possibility of international spread remain of concern. While infection has spread through human-to-human transmission in many cases, the primary cases in clusters are more likely to have been acquired through contact with non-human sources of the virus, including environmental or unknown animal sources. Several studies have suggested dromedary camels as a potential source of human infection. Some studies reveal that camel populations have antibodies that strongly react to MERS-CoV, but not to other related coronavirus. Others show the isolation of MERS-CoV virus from camels with mild clinical signs, and the genetic sequence similarity between the MERS-CoV genome obtained from camels and the virus from humans, with epidemiological links to the camels. Also, a study on a limited number of camels demonstrated that animals can be infected experimentally and that large quantities of virus are shed from the upper respiratory tract. [read more](#)

22 Apr 2015: With bird flu (H5N2) spreading, USDA starts on potential vaccine

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is working on a vaccine to counter a deadly strain of bird flu, as losses to poultry producers mount. A pure "seed strain" would target the H5N2 virus — which has already cost Midwest turkey and chicken producers over 7 million birds since early March — as well as some other highly pathogenic viruses in the H5 family that have been detected in other parts of North America. If the USDA decides the vaccine is necessary to stop avian influenza, it will provide that seed strain to drug manufacturers. The process, though, is fraught with questions about which birds would get the vaccine, how it might affect exports and whether it would be effective against the rapidly spreading strain. [read more](#)