



## ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit and Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases for South Asia, FAO, Nepal

### INDIA

#### 16 Jul 2015: Death due to Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF, Gujarat)

A 45-year-old woman died of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) virus, known as Congo fever, in Kutch of Gujarat state on 15 July 2015. Dr Pankajkumar Pandey, chief district health officer of Kutch said, the woman was resident of Rampara Vekra village in Mandvi taluka of the district. Medical teams have already been deployed in the woman's village to find out if there are other people having similar symptoms. Besides medical teams, a team of veterinary officials are also camping in the village. [read more](#)

#### 21 Jul 2015: Shortage of Rabies immunoglobulin injection threatens patients

In most animal bite cases, patients are administered human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) injection. However, most hospitals as well as medical stores in the city don't have this in stock. Administrators say the shortage is a pan-India phenomenon caused by low production of HRIG. This is all the more worrying as India accounts for the largest number of rabies deaths in the world. In the period between April 2014 and March 2015, more than 6,000 people in the city were bitten by dogs. In three months since, almost 2,000 people have been bitten. Most victims prefer going to government hospitals all of which have a well functioning rabies clinic. However, none of the public sector hospitals in the city, neither those run by state government nor those run by Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), stock HRIG. [read more](#)

### NEPAL

#### 15 Jul 2015: Surveillance of Influenza A virus and its subtypes in migratory wild birds of Nepal

Nepal borders India and China and all three countries lie within the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds. Novel influenza A H7N9 caused human fatalities in China in 2013. Subclinical infections of influenza A H7N9 in birds and the potential for virus dispersal by migratory birds prompted this study to assess avian H7N9 viral intrusion into Nepal. Surveillance of influenza A virus in migratory birds was implemented in early 2014 with assistance from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Of 1811 environmental fecal samples collected from seven wetland migratory bird roosting areas, influenza A H9N2 was found in one sample from a ruddy shelduck in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve located in southern Nepal. Avian H7N9 and other highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses were not detected. This study provides baseline data on the status of avian influenza virus in migratory bird populations in Nepal. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 20 Jul 2015: Avian flu and rabies lead the top list of wildlife-livestock diseases

Avian flu and rabies lead the list of the most-studied pathogens at the wildlife-livestock interface, and media interest may largely drive research on such diseases, according to a large meta-analysis today in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Australian, UK, and Italian experts considered more than 78,000 studies published from 1912 to 2013 before analyzing 15,998. They found that the number of publications per year involving diseases at the wild-domestic interface increased continuously, with a shift from parasitic diseases to viral diseases over time. Ten diseases, most of which can spread to people, accounted for half of the published research: avian flu (covered in 9.9% of studies), rabies (9.4%), salmonellosis (6.2%), bovine tuberculosis (TB; 5.7%), trichinosis (5.0%), Newcastle disease (4.8%), brucellosis (4.2%), leptospirosis (4.1%), echinococcosis (3.8%), and toxoplasmosis (3.4%). [read more](#)

#### 20 Jul 2015: Viruses that spread from animals to humans are on the rise, so what are they and how can scientists stop them?

Viruses that develop in animals can spread to humans are on the rise around the world and scientists say more research is needed to prevent them from evolving. Viruses that pose a risk to both human and animal health are known as zoonotic diseases. The more severe examples include ebola in west Africa, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in the Arabian Peninsula, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Asia, and even Hendra in Australia. Researchers at the University of Sydney say not enough is known about livestock and wildlife diseases that can evolve and pose a risk to human health. The University's Dr Siobhan Mor has just completed a study into how much scientists know about such animal diseases before they develop. [read more](#)