

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (RSU-SAARC)

### INDIA

#### 20 May 2016: Delhi Zoo sends SOS to disease control authorities after rabies 'kills more than 30 deer'

Over 30 spotted deer including 14 only in May had died since February 2014. The lab reports have confirmed 13 deaths due to rabies while the cause of death of the remaining deers is yet to be ascertained. Terming the situation as critical, zoo officials sought the help of NCDC in controlling the disease. "This is an SOS situation as public health issues are involved. The measures taken to prevent the spread of the diseases have so far not been very successful. The situation cannot be controlled by the efforts and resources of the Delhi zoo alone and requires coordinated efforts by agencies under the guidance of the NCDC," Amitabh Agnihotri, director of the national zoological park wrote in his letter. Vaccination is underway as a damage control measure. [read more](#)

#### 25 May 2016: Rabies is just one reason why stray dogs are a snarling menace in India

WHO estimates that roughly 36 percent of the world's rabies deaths occur in India each year, most of those when children come into contact with infected dogs. The WHO estimates the dog population to be around 25 million in India. So rampant is the dog menace in the country, that the Supreme Court is taking cognizance of the issue, and has constituted a fact-finding committee to be headed by a former Kerala High Court judge to conduct a sample survey of the dog menace in Kerala. The committee has been given three months to file a report, after which, based on the findings of the report, the SC will pass an order applicable to all states and union territories on handling the stray dogs menace. The SC directed the states and local bodies to take steps to sterilize and vaccinate nuisance-causing stray dogs, under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. [read more](#)

### NEPAL

#### 24 May 2016: At least 50 per cent of monkeys found in the Kathmandu valley are infected with zoonotic diseases

There are 1,627 monkeys in the Kathmandu Valley and about 900 of them have zoonotic diseases including the dreaded tuberculosis and herpes B virus, diarrhoea, obesity and scabies. With their habitats being increasingly destroyed more monkeys are entering human settlements and have become a nuisance and a major health threat. [read more](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 21 May 2016: Camel disease in Cholistan and Thar deserts are yet to diagnose

In the last issue of this e-information deaths of 22 camels were reported in different areas of Thar desert in Sindh province. The similar camel disease has also been reported in Cholistan desert in Punjab province during the same period. The Cholistan desert geographically adjoins the Thar desert of Sindh province. Though the disease is yet to be diagnosed, Staphylococcus aureus, E. coli, Streptococcus pneumonia, Pasteurella, PPRV and even FMDV have informally been reported on the suspect list. Fever, cough, diarrhea, and shortness of breath are common signs of this disease. Local camel herders liken this disease with PPR while others link the disease with the camel movement from across Pakistan to the annual festival of "Sajan Sawai" celebrated from 22-24 April in Tehsil Talhar, district Badin of Sindh province. Similar disease episodes with no definite diagnosis have been reported in the previous years in Thar desert on both sides in India and Pakistan. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 19 May 2016: Trade groups back call for global action against superbugs-Antibiotic resistance report

"Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global issue, which the veterinary profession is deeply concerned about as it threatens our ability to treat animals and protect human health," The global review on AMR was commissioned by the UK government. The report by Lord O'Neill recognizes the importance of using a whole range of measures in both human and animal health to tackle AMR, and the fact that action must be taken globally. [read more](#)

#### First report of the Peste Des Petits Ruminant outbreak in camels in Iran

According to a study, in mid-July 2013, an outbreak of PPR was observed in a herd of camels after they were imported from Kuwait to the Khuzestan province in southwest of Iran. The clinical signs of the affected animals included sudden death, fever, oral erosion, and ecthyma-like lesions, yellowish diarrhea, pneumonia and respiratory distress, enlargement of lymph node, severe dehydration, dermatitis, ulcerative keratitis, and conjunctivitis. [read more](#)

#### Understanding Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) at the Animal-Human Interface

MERS-CoV can cause severe pneumonia in humans and is considered an emerging global public health threat. The disease was first detected in Saudi Arabia in 2012, and over 1638 laboratory-confirmed human cases, including 587 fatalities have been reported so far. The virus has been isolated from dromedary camels in several countries in the Near East and East Africa and antibodies to MERS-CoV have also been identified in very high proportions of camels in a number of countries. [read more](#)

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