

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### INDIA

#### 11 Oct 2016: Rabies testing laboratory and service center to be set up, Goa

Taking forward their initiative to vaccinate dogs in Goa and make the state rabies free, Mission Rabies has now set up a rabies testing facility in Panaji for faster results. The samples were previously sent to Bengaluru for testing. The month end campaign was set up which focused on the stray dog population aiming to vaccinate 70 percent of the population. [Read more](#)

#### 09 Oct 2016: Encephalitis widens its net, 112 new cases reported, Uttar Pradesh

The spike in cases of encephalitis in eastern region has put the district administration on tenterhooks. As many as 112 new cases of encephalitis were reported in the region, putting a question mark on the administration's vaccination programme. After mass vaccination drives in 2006 and 2010, the proportion of mosquito borne encephalitis cases had fallen to 2-3 percent but the rise in mosquito-borne encephalitis cases in last 2 months [August, September 2016] has raised health officials red-faced. The district administration needs to monitor the encephalitis vaccination program as has been done in the case of polio vaccination". [Read More](#)

### NEPAL

#### 10 Oct 2016: 59 new cases of Scrub Typhus reported, Chitwan

As many as 59 new cases of scrub typhus infection have been reported in Chitwan district in Asoj, pushing the number of patients in the district to 264 in the last six months. A total of eight persons have been reported dead due to the infection since its outbreak in the eastern part of the country, shared by the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division under the Ministry of Health. [Read More](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 11 Oct 2016: Rabies kills 50 year old Mauripur resident

A man has died from rabies at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), taking the toll from the infected animal-borne disease to 14 at this public hospital alone this year, said JPMC Joint Executive Director Dr Seemin Jamali on Monday. Rabies is a viral disease that can be prevented if the person bitten by a diseased dog or any other animal is vaccinated timely, but once the disease grips a person, he or she dies painfully and there is no cure for full blown rabies in the world. [Read More](#)

### OTHERS

#### 13 Oct 2016: Migration routes hold key to bird flu spread, global study finds

The recommendation follows new research that shows migrating birds can help to spread deadly strains of avian flu around the world. Some strains of bird flu viruses are highly lethal in birds as they infect and pose a major threat to poultry farms worldwide. In rare cases, the viruses can also infect people and cause life-threatening illness. Researchers investigated how a subtype of bird flu called H5N8 spread around the world following outbreaks in South Korea that began in early 2014. The virus spread to Japan, North America and Europe, causing outbreaks in birds between autumn 2014 and spring 2015. Scientists analysed migration patterns of wild birds that were found to be infected with the H5N8 virus. The team then compared the genetic code of viruses isolated from infected birds collected from 16 different countries. Their findings revealed that H5N8 was most likely carried by long distance flights of infected migrating wild birds from Asia to Europe and North America via their breeding grounds in the Arctic. [Read More](#)

#### 12 Oct 2016: Study says only health workers in close contact with MERS patients are at risk

A retrospective cohort study conducted in a hospital in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, after a 17-case MERS outbreak found that only healthcare workers (HCWs) who had close contact with patients contracted the virus, and their illnesses were mild. Saudi and US researchers, writing in Emerging Infectious Diseases yesterday, said they recruited every HCW who worked in the intensive care unit (ICU) and emergency department (ED) from Mar 24 through May 3, 2014, when the outbreak of MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) occurred. They also recruited HCWs from the neurology unit, which had no known cases. [Read More](#)

#### 11 Oct 2016: Zika virus: The outbreak in Asia

The World Health Organization has said it is highly likely that infections and outbreaks of Zika will continue to rise in Asia. Hundreds of cases have cropped up in the region, and Thailand has confirmed two cases of babies born with Zika-linked microcephaly. [Read More](#)