

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### RSU (SAARC), FAO NEWS

#### 19 Jun 2017: SAARC Training Workshop on Safe Trade in Live Animal and Animal Products

The Regional Support Unit of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Secretariat, has organized a four-day regional training with the participation of all the eight SAARC Member States on 'Enhancing Capacity for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for Safe Trade in Animal and Animal Products in South Asia'. About 35 participants of the SAARC countries as well as international SPS experts from Agencies like OIE, CABI, SARSO participated in the training programme from 19-22 June 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The training was aimed towards enhancing regional capacity among SAARC Member States for application of SPS standards for safe and enhanced trade in livestock and livestock products. [Read More](#)

### INDIA

#### 14 Jun 2017: 16 succumbed to rabies in Gujarat

Rabies claimed 16 lives in Gujarat between 2014 - 2016 as the state ranked 5<sup>th</sup> among 29 states and seven union territories including national capital territory of Delhi. As per the figures given by the Union Health Ministry, India has reported altogether 324 fatalities due to dog bite during the period. With 146 deaths, West Bengal reported highest number of deaths due to rabies followed by Delhi (39), Jharkhand (34), and Madhya Pradesh (23). Meanwhile Kerala reported 14 deaths followed by Odisha (12), Uttarakhand (6), Assam (5), and Bihar (5). [Read More](#)

#### 15 June 2017: Soldier dies of rabies 11 years after scratch from pet dog

A scratch from a pet dog 11 years ago led to the death of a 45-year-old Army *jawan* in Pune's Command Hospital on March 31, 2017. Authorities of the Command Hospital that comes under Southern Command of Indian Army said the *jawan* (soldier) was posted at the line of control in Jammu & Kashmir's Naushera sector in 2006 when an unvaccinated pet dog scratched the skin of his lower leg. On March 25, 2017, he developed full-blown rabies infection and died five days later. Experts said that although it is rare to have a long incubation period, medical literature suggests that there have been cases where the infection has developed even after 14 to 19 years. They suggested that people should not ignore casual licks, scratches or bites from an unvaccinated pet. Besides, they should immunise their pet against rabies every year. [Read More](#)

### OTHERS

#### 19 Jun 2017: FAO Review: Dromedary Camels and MERS-CoV: filling knowledge gaps

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is an emerging threat for public health globally and can be a cause of severe respiratory infection in humans, especially those suffering other ailments. The disease is new to humans and was first reported in 2012 in Saudi Arabia. Dromedary camels are thought to be a natural reservoir of MERS-CoV and can be a source of infection for humans. Camels are widely spread throughout the world, mainly in arid areas, and serve important economic, livelihood, nutritional and social purposes. To date, 27 countries have reported human cases of MERS-CoV in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia and North America. Nevertheless, the majority of cases have so far occurred in Saudi Arabia where according to some studies - MERS-CoV has been circulating in camels since at least 1992. [Read More](#), [More](#)

#### Red Meat Market in Slump over Congo Fever outbreak, Iran

The spread of the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever [CCHF] in Iran has caused serious concern among Iranians, as many refrain from buying red meat. Following the decline in demand, sheep meat prices have fallen by 20 000 rials (USD 0.5) per kilogram, he added. Maleki warned of more disruption in the market, if the trend continues. CCHF is a widespread tick-borne viral disease that is now endemic in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East, and Asia. Symptoms include fever, muscle pain, dizziness, neck pain and stiffness, backache, headache, sore eyes, and photophobia. [Read More](#)