



PRESS RELEASE
MINISTRY OF FOOD INDUSTRY, COMMODITY
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SARAWAK



21 February 2024

RABIES SITUATION IN SARAWAK

Samarahan and Serian Division has been declared as Rabies Infected Division due to new animal rabies positive detected in both Divisions recently. The previously declared areas still remain Rabies Infected Areas including Kuching and Bintulu Division. This declaration is necessary to ensure more effort taken by the Division concerned. For this year, a total of 20 animals out of 133 samples were tested positive for rabies.

Animal rabies was detected in **Kuching (10), Padawan (3), Samarahan (1), Bau (1), Tebedu (1), Bintulu (2) and Sebauh (2)**, summary of the cases are as below:

Location of Positive Sample (No.Of Cases)	Owned/Stray	Bite Case/Active Sampling
Lorong Tabuan Timur 3A, Jalan Tabuan (1)	Owned Dog	Bite Case
Tabuan Plaza, Jalan Bayor Bukit (2)	Stray Dog	Bite Case
Tabuan Desa Indah, Jalan Bayor Bukit (4)	Stray Dog	Bite Case
Lorong Wan Alwi 7, Kuching (1)	Owned Dog who was bitten by stray dog	Active Sampling
Taman BDC, Stutong (1)	Owned Cat	Active Sampling
Kompos DBKU, Jalan Demak (1)	Stray Dog	Bite Case
Kampung Sagah, Bau (1)	Owned Dog	Bite Case
Riverbank Batu Kawa, Padawan (1)	Stray Dog	Active Sampling
Lorong SPS 2, Skim Penempatan Stapok, Batu Kawa (1)	Owned Dog	Bite Case
Carina Estate, Jalan Stapok Utama (1)	Owned Dog	Bite Case
Kampung Merdang Limau, Samarahan (1)	Owned Dog	Bite Case
Kampung Entubuh, Tebedu (1)	Owned Dog	Active Sampling

Junction 5, Jalan Tun Hussein Onn, Bintulu (1)	Stray Dog	Bite Case
Taman Bandarjaya, Jalan Tun Hussein Onn, Bintulu (1)	Stray Dog	Bite Case
Sungai Lumok Engkasu, Tubau, Sebauh (2)	Owned Dog	Bite Case

Since 2017, the cumulative figure of dogs that has been vaccinated by DVS Sarawak and Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET) across Sarawak is 247,267 dogs. As for 2023, the team had successfully vaccinated 37,254 against the targeted 40,000 heads. The target for the year 2024 is to vaccinate 50,000 heads of dogs. The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Sarawak and Unit Keselamatan dan Penguatkuasaan Sarawak (UKPS) will continue to intensify the anti-rabies vaccination programmes throughout Sarawak. Targeted stray dog removal will be carried out by respective local councils throughout the State to reduce the stray population.

In this regard, I would like to remind the public to take extra precautions and go to a nearby clinic if bitten by an animal. Dog owners must be responsible to ensure their pet is vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccine. Dog vaccination is made mandatory under Section 40, VPHO 1999. Any owner or person in charge of a dog who fails to comply is guilty of an offence and may be compounded up to RM1,000. Dog owners are required to apply license and microchip from their respective councils. Pet owners are advised to neuter their pets in order to prevent unwanted litters.

Owners who let their dogs roam freely on the streets shall be liable to a fine not exceeding RM2,500 under Section 37, VPHO 1999. Dog owners must keep their dogs under effective control by confining it within an enclosed area from which it is impossible for the dog to escape. The Local Authority may seize and impound any dogs which is not on a leash in accordance with the Local Authorities (Dog Licensing and Control) by-laws, 2018.

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