



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



15 August 2023

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**MARUDI NOW DECLARED AS RABIES INFECTED AREA IN MIRI**

On this day, 15<sup>th</sup> August, I declared Kpg. Narum, Marudi, Miri as a new area rabies infected area after one stray dog was confirmed rabies positive on 2 August 2023. Since 2017, a total of 73 areas had been declared as rabies infected areas in Sarawak. This year, the Department of Veterinary Services has tested 392 samples and had found 73 dogs and 5 cats to be rabies positive for rabies. Animal rabies were detected in Lundu (3), Bau (2), Kuching (31), Padawan (18), Kota Samarahan (5), Siburan (1), Serian (1), Tebekang (4), Sibu (1), Selangau (1), Mukah (1), Bintulu (2), Marudi (1) and Lawas (1).

In view of the increased in rabies cases, DVS Sarawak has intensified the anti-rabies vaccination programs throughout Sarawak mainly in Kuching, Sibu, Bintulu and Miri Division. This program will be intensified further by the department., A mass vaccination will be held on 19-20/8/2023 at Tempat Letak Kereta Taman Awam Miri from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. DVS Sarawak and Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET) have set a target of 40,000 heads of dogs to be vaccinated across Sarawak in 2023 and to date they have successfully vaccinated 27,668 dogs.

This year, Sarawak recorded 13 death from 15 rabies cases according to the State Health Department. Since 2017, the cumulative total human rabies cases now stood at 70, with 63 deaths.

Base on the above statistics, Sarawak is currently experiencing a rise in rabies cases for both human and animals. Therefore, I would like to remind the public to take extra precaution, and urge anyone who is bitten by animal to quickly visit a clinic. Dog owners must also ensure that their pet are vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccine. Any dog owner or a person in charge of a dog who fails without reasonable cause to comply with the Anti-Rabies Vaccination Order shall be guilty of an offence and may be compounded of up to RM1,000.

Owners who let their dogs roaming freely on the streets shall also 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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**YB DATO SRI DR. STEPHEN RUNDI ANAK UTOM**  
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