

# BULETIN

EDISI TAHUN 2024



## KENYALANG VET

A – Z Berkenaan Rabies Di Sarawak  
dan Strategi Pembasmian

## STOP RABIES!

By collaborating together,  
we can stop rabies!

### BREAKING RABIES BOUNDARIES!

Only awareness,  
vaccination, and  
knowledge can help us  
save lives against rabies.

**4**  
**QUICK TIPS**  
to prevent rabies

**ONE HEALTH**  
**ZERO DEATH**  
by 2030



rabies kills, vaccination heals: take action today!



## **JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR SARAWAK 2024**

Hak cipta terpelihara. Tidak ada bahagian dari buku ini yang dapat diterbitkan semula atau digunakan dalam bentuk apa pun dengan cara apa sekalipun, elektronik atau mekanikal, termasuk fotokopi, rakaman atau oleh sistem penyimpanan dan pengambilan maklumat, tanpa izin secara bertulis daripada JPVS.

**2024 | HAK CIPTA JPVS.**



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# KANDUNGAN





**• AMANAT**  
YANG BERHORMAT  
DATO SRI DR. STEPHEN RUNDI ANAK UTOH  
MENTERI INDUSTRI MAKANAN, KOMODITI DAN  
PEMBANGUNAN WILAYAH SARAWAK

*"It requires close cross-  
sectoral coordination at  
the national, regional and  
global levels to curb the  
spread of rabies."*



Salam Sarawak Maju Makmur,

Terlebih dahulu saya mengucapkan terima kasih dan syabas kepada semua ahli Jawatankuasa Buletin Kenyalang VET di atas usaha, dorongan dan komitmen semua di atas kewujudan Buletin Edisi 2024. Peranan yang dimainkan oleh semua pihak yang terlibat dalam penerbitan buletin ini amat dihargai.

Buletin kali ini mengupas isu Rabies dengan lebih terperinci dan padat dengan informasi yang berguna kepada masyarakat kita. Tema kempen Rabies tahun ini, "Breaking Rabies Boundaries", adalah sesuai kerana Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi dan Pembangunan Wilayah Sarawak (M-FICORD) menyokong aktiviti *Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak* (DVSS) untuk menghapuskan rabies menjelang 2030. Matlamat ini telah ditetapkan oleh Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (JPBN) yang dipengerusikan oleh Timbalan Premier, YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas.

Strategi kawalan rabies oleh JPBN amat penting untuk dilaksanakan. Seperti biasa, saya sentiasa bersedia untuk menyokong DVSS dalam menghapuskan rabies di wilayah kita di Sarawak ini. Saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada setiap individu, organisasi dan pihak berkepentingan di atas sumbangan yang telah dilakukan sama ada secara langsung ataupun sebaliknya untuk kesedaran global ini, dan yang paling penting, KITA BERTINDAK! Rabies boleh dibasmi dengan penglibatan padu semua agensi dan masyarakat.

Akhir kata, saya amat berharap buletin ini dapat memberi pendedahan dan kesedaran yang lebih kepada semua agensi dan lapisan masyarakat. Harapan saya agar semua menyumbang tenaga dan peranan masing-masing dalam usaha membanteras rabies di Sarawak.

Terima kasih.



**YANG BERHORMAT**

**DATO SRI DR. STEPHEN RUNDI ANAK UTOM**

**PESANAN**  
YANG BERBAHAGIA  
DATU SIRAI ANAK DAHA  
SETIAUSAHA TETAP  
KEMENTERIAN INDUSTRI MAKANAN, KOMODITI DAN  
PEMBANGUNAN WILAYAH SARAWAK



*"Fight Rabies, Save Lives!*

*Rabies is 100% Preventable.*

*Act Now!"*



Salam Sarawakku Sayang,

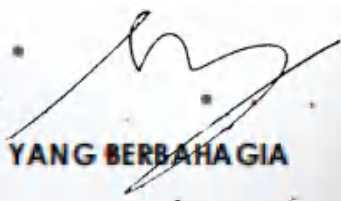
Saya memanjatkan sepenuh kesyukuran kepada Tuhan kerana dengan limpah rahmat-Nya, telah berjaya diterbitkan Buletin Kenyalang VET Edisi 2024. Setiap keluaran Buletin Kenyalang VET menghimpunkan pelbagai topik yang bermanfaat kepada kita semua.

Buletin ini ialah wadah penghubung antara DVS Sarawak dan pembaca. Berita-berita yang diterbitkan mencerminkan kesungguhan DVS Sarawak melaksanakan amanah di dalam mengemudi perkhidmatan veterinar yang terbaik di Sarawak. Edisi kali ini menyingkap penuh isu rabies yang kita masih berusaha memerangnya.

Tema Hari Rabies Sedunia 2024 ialah: "Memecah Sempadan Rabies". Tema ini menekankan kepentingan pendekatan *One Health* terhadap pencegahan dan kawalan rabies. Pendekatan *One Health* mengabungkan usaha dimana kesihatan manusia, haiwan, dan alam sekitar adalah saling berkaitan. Dengan bekerjasama ini, kita boleh menghapuskan rabies sebagai ancaman kesihatan awam.

Akhir kata, saya menggalakkan anda untuk meneruskan dan menggunakan momentum yang dibina daripada Hari Rabies Sedunia untuk menjadikan tahun 2025 sebagai tahun di mana kita mengorak langkah yang lebih besar untuk mencapai matlamat kita untuk menghapuskan penyakit rabies ini menjelang 2030. Syabas dan tahniah saya ucapkan kepada sidang redaksi Buletin Kenyalang VET serta para penulis yang telah menyumbang kepada penerbitan edisi kali ini.

Terima Kasih.



**YANG BERHAAGIA**

**DATU SIRAI ANAK DAHA**



## • PRAKATA

YANG BERBAHAGIA  
DATU DR. ADRIAN SUSIN AMBUD  
PENGARAH  
JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN VETERINAR SARAWAK

*"Protect Animals, Protect  
People. Vaccinate Today,  
Stay Safe Tomorrow!  
Together, We Can End  
Rabies!"*



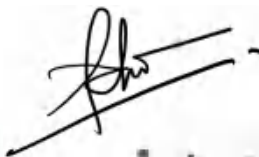
Salam Ibu Pertiwiku, Salam CERIA Dan Segulai Sejalai,

Pembasmian Rabies menjelang 2030 merupakan salah satu KPI Jabatan. Setiap Ketua di Pejabat Bahagian perlu memastikan rabies tidak dikesan di Bahagian masing-masing. Oleh itu aktiviti vaksinasi, ceramah dan survelan perlu dilakukan secara berterusan oleh setiap Bahagian. Kenyayang VET Edisi 2024 kali ini, mengupas isu serius berkaitan dengan Rabies. Oleh itu, saya ingin mengambil peluang ini untuk menyebarkan informasi rabies ini dengan lebih meluas lagi dikalangan semua lapisan masyarakat kita dan agensi di Sarawak.

Pembenterasan rabies sejak July 2017, DVSS bersama rakan-rakan agensi lain amat saya hargai. Agensi itu adalah IBET dibawah Unit Keselamatan dan Penguatkuasaan Sarawak (UKPS), Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan (PBT) dibawah Kementerian Kesihatan Awam, Kerajaan Tempatan dan Perumahan (MPHLG), Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sarawak (JKNS), Unit Komunikasi Awam Sarawak (UKAS), Persatuan Pencegahan Kekejaman Terhadap Haiwan Sarawak (SSPCA), Persatuan Veterinar Sarawak (SVA), Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), Pejabat Residen dan agensi lain yang dibawah Jawatankuasa Pengurusan Bencana Negeri (JPBN) telah berada di barisan hadapan dalam melaksanakan pelbagai strategi dalam aktiviti vaksinasi anjing, pemandulan, penguatkuasaan, 'targeted removal', microchip dan pelesenan anjing untuk kawalan rabies dan populasi haiwan di seluruh Sarawak.

Saya menyeru kepada masyarakat untuk memastikan anjing anda disuntik vaksin rabies dan tingkatan komitmen untuk membanteras rabies di Sarawak selaras dengan pendekatan *One Health* yang menggariskan keazaman kita untuk membasmi rabies di Sarawak menjelang 2030. Oleh yang demikian, saya menggesa agar seluruh WARGA VETERINAR SARAWAK terus memberikan komitmen yang tinggi dan perkhidmatan yang terbaik untuk membebaskan Sarawak dari belenggu rabies ini.

Sekian, terima kasih.



**YBHG. DATU DR. ADRIAN SUSIN AMBUD**

# FAKTA PENTING

Rabies disebabkan oleh **lyssavirus** yang tersebar melalui air liur haiwan (anjing dan kucing) terjangkit apabila mengigit atau mencakar haiwan mamalia lain dan manusia. Rabies merupakan masalah kesihatan awam yang serius di lebih 150 negara di dunia, terutamanya di Asia dan Afrika. Ia adalah penyakit tertua didunia, sangat digeruni dan menyebabkan berpuluh-puluh ribu kematian setiap tahun. Gigitan dan cakaran anjing menyebabkan 99% daripada kes rabies manusia dan boleh dicegah melalui vaksinasi anjing dan pencegahan gigitan. Sebaik sahaja virus menjangkiti sistem saraf pusat dan gejala klinikal muncul, rabies boleh membawa maut hampir 100% kes.

Walau bagaimanapun, kematian rabies boleh dicegah dengan profilaksis pasca pendedahan segera (PEP) dengan menghentikan virus daripada menjangkiti sistem saraf pusat. PEP terdiri daripada mencuci luka dengan segera secara menyeluruh selama 15 minit dengan air sabun dan air mengalir, suntikan imunoglobulin rabies (RIG) dan pemberian 4 dos suntikan vaksin rabies manusia. Suntikan diberi pada hari pertama, ke-3, 7 dan 14. Mangsa harus pergi ke hospital dengan segera jika digigit atau dicakar haiwan untuk mendapatkan rawatan seperti diatas bagi mencegah penyakit rabies.

**LANGKAH SEGERA!** Jika digigit atau dicakar haiwan adalah membasuh luka anda untuk menghilangkan air liur yang mungkin mengandungi virus rabies dan terus ke hospital atau klinik terdekat.



# RABIES MEMBUNUH

## Sejarah Rabies Di Malaysia

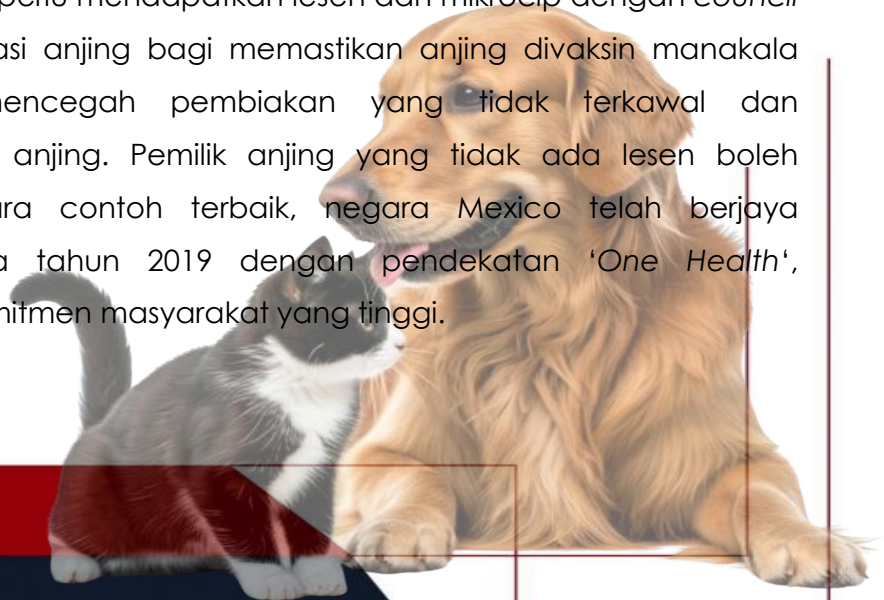
Wabak Rabies atau lebih dikenali di Malaysia sebagai penyakit Anjing Gila dikesan di Malaysia pada tahun 1884 apabila sejumlah besar anjing diimport masuk ke Malaya. Pada tahun 1924, jangkitan rabies dalam manusia mula direkodkan. Pada waktu tersebut, kebanyakan kes terjadi di kawasan sempadan Malaysia dan Thailand. Beberapa kes terpencil masih berlaku di kalangan manusia dilaporkan pada tahun 1998 dan kejadian wabak rabies di kalangan anjing pada tahun 2015 direkodkan di Kedah, Perlis dan Pulau Pinang.

## Perintah Vaksinasi (*Vaccination Order*)

Dibawah seksyen 40, *Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999*, empunya anjing boleh dikompoun sehingga RM1,250 sekiranya gagal memastikan anjing miliknya disuntik anti-rabies vaksin manakala anjing lepas bebas boleh didenda sebanyak RM5,000. Vaksinasi penting untuk menamatkan kematian manusia akibat rabies yang dibawa oleh anjing dan kucing. Semua anjing harus disuntik vaksin anti-Rabies setahun sekali termasuk anak anjing berumur 3 bulan keatas. Rantaian jangkitan virus rabies ini boleh diputuskan sekiranya 70% populasi anjing sudah divaksin dan mencapai *herd immunity*.

## Perlesenan Anjing oleh PBT

Pemilik anjing di Sarawak perlu mendapatkan lesen dan mikrochip dengan *council (PBT)* untuk rekod populasi anjing bagi memastikan anjing divaksin manakala pemandulan dapat mencegah pembiakan yang tidak terkawal dan mengurangkan populasi anjing. Pemilik anjing yang tidak ada lesen boleh didenda RM5,000. Antara contoh terbaik, negara Mexico telah berjaya membasmi rabies pada tahun 2019 dengan pendekatan '*One Health*', penguatkuasaan dan komitmen masyarakat yang tinggi.





# RINGKASAN SEJARAH RABIES DI SARAWAK

**30 JUN 2017**

**4 JUL 2017**

**11 JAN 2019**

**SEMENJAK 4 JULY 2017  
HINGGA DIS 2024**

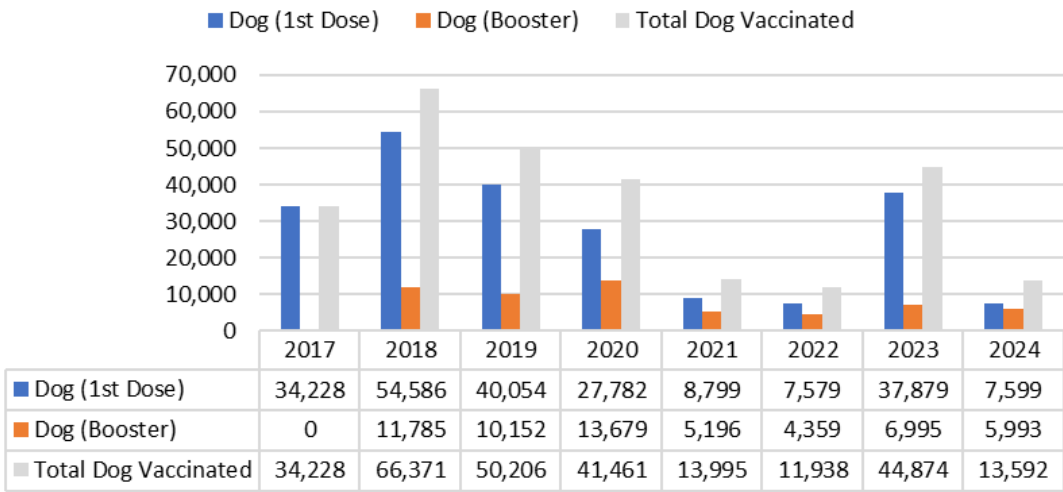
- Kes rabies pertama dikesan di Bahagian Serian pada tahun 2017.
- Pengisytiharan kawasan jangkitan rabies di Sarawak (Seksyen 37, VPHO 1999).
- Perintah Vaksinasi Anti-Rabies (Seksyen 40, VPHO 1999).
- Wabak rabies di Sarawak diisytiharkan sebagai Bencana Tahap Dua oleh Majlis Keselamatan Negara Malaysia – MKN20.
- Bahagian Kuching, Samarahan, Serian, Bintulu dan Kapit termasuk 35 kawasan telah diisytiharkan sebagai kawasan jangkitan rabies di Sarawak (Seksyen 37, VPHO 1999).
- Di Sarawak jumlah terkumpul 76 kematian, 83 kes rabies manusia sejak tahun 2017.
- Jumlah haiwan yang divaksinasi = 274,694 ekor



# DATA VAKSINASI TERKUMPUL

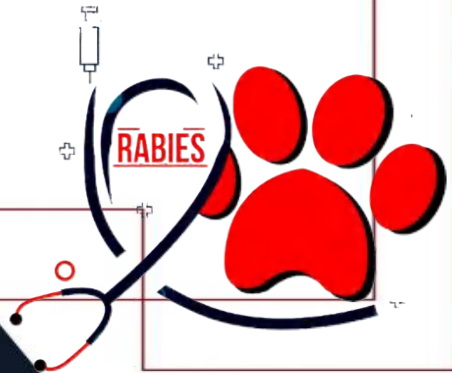


ACCUMULATIVE ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION OF DOGS IN SARAWAK



| Year      | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | Total |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Cases     | 6    | 10   | 6    | 9    | 10   | 14   | 20   | 8    | 83    |
| Mortality | 5    | 10   | 6    | 8    | 10   | 11   | 18   | 8    | 72    |

Nota: Data kematian ini diperoleh daripada Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Sarawak (JKNS) dan data vaksinasi yang dilaporkan oleh setiap pejabat veterinar bahagian (termasuk vaksinasi yang dilakukan oleh Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET) pada tahun 2024).



# SIMPTOM DAN TANDA-TANDA RABIES

Tempoh inkubasi untuk rabies biasanya 2-3 bulan tetapi mungkin berbeza dari satu minggu hingga satu tahun, bergantung kepada faktor seperti lokasi kemasukan virus dan *viral load*. Gejala awal rabies termasuk tanda-tanda generik seperti demam, sakit dan kesemutan yang luar biasa atau tidak dapat dijelaskan, dicucuk atau sensasi terbakar di tapak luka, cakaran atau gigitan.

Apabila virus bergerak ke sistem saraf pusat, keradangan otak dan saraf tunjang akan berkembang. Rabies klinikal manusia sangat jarang dapat disembuhkan. Mangsa akan takut minum air, tidak mahu makan dan seterusnya tanda semakin teruk, lumpuh, koma dan dalam tempoh 10 hari kebiasaannya akan berakhir dengan kematian.

Haiwan yang dijangkiti akan menjadi agresif, menggigit, meliur dan tidak mahu minum air. Haiwan ini biasanya mati dalam tempoh 14 hari selepas simptom pertama kelihatan. Tiada rawatan yang dapat menyembuhkan penyakit ini selepas tanda-tanda rabies mulai kelihatan. Oleh sebab itu, vaksinasi rabies dan **pencegahan adalah amat penting.**





# TANDA RABIES PADA MANUSIA

Rabies kebiasaannya menyebabkan kematian hampir 100% setelah gejala atau tanda-tanda kelihatan. Kematian biasanya terjadi dalam 7-10 hari setelah muncul gejala pertama seperti demam, kebas di tempat gigitan atau cakaran, berkelakuan agresif, sawan, takut akan air atau tidak dapat minum air, keliru dan koma.

Rabies yang agresif mengakibatkan hiperaktif, tingkah laku yang berubah dan pelik, halusinasi, hilang koordinasi, hidrofovia (takut air) dan aerophobia (takut kepada angin atau udara segar). Kematian berlaku selepas beberapa hari akibat lemah kardio-pernafasan.

Rabies lumpuh menyumbang kira-kira 20% daripada jumlah kes manusia. Otot akan secara beransur-ansur menjadi lumpuh, bermula dari tapak luka. Koma perlahan-lahan berkembang dan akhirnya kematian berlaku. Bentuk lumpuh rabies sering tersalah diagnosis, yang mungkin menyumbang kepada kurangnya pelaporan penyakit ini.



# TANDA-TANDA KLINIKAL RABIES PADA HAIWAN

1. Tempoh inkubasi dalam kucing dan anjing :
  - 1 minggu sehingga 6 bulan tetapi lazimnya penyakit akan berkembang 1 atau 2 bulan setelah terdedah.
2. Semakin hampir jarak gigitan dengan kepala, maka semakin pendek tempoh inkubasi.

Haiwan yang mempunyai sejarah menggigit dan digigit dengan simptom perubahan kelakuan, gejala saraf, lumpuh dan kematian. Gejala klinikal dalam haiwan lazimnya melalui tiga fasa dimulai fasa *prodromal* yang agresif, fasa *excitatory* dan disusuli dengan fasa paralitik atau lumpuh yang dungu.

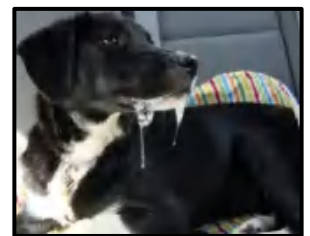
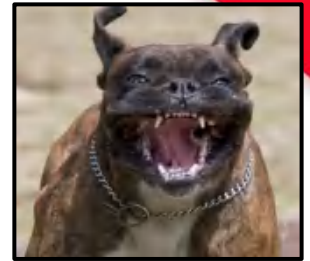


## 3. Tiga (3) fasa :

- *Prodromal*
  - 2 hingga 3 hari & demam
  - Menjilat dan menggigit kawasan gigitan
  - Perubahan tingkah laku
  - Letih, gelisah & muntah
  - Lebih jinak dan manja
  - Pupil mata melebar
  - Tindak balas pupil menurun

➤ *Excitatory / Furious*

- Berlangsung selama 1 hingga 7 hari
- Mudah marah
- Cemas
- Hiperestesia
- Hipersalivasi
- Penyuaran
- Merayau - rayau
- Agresif
- *Pica*
- *Ataxia*, sawan, tanda vestibular, gegaran otot



➤ *Paralytic / Dumb (Dumb)*

- 1 hingga 10 hari setelah tanda klinikal pertama
- Kelumpuhan lembab
  - Lumpuh laring (perubahan suara)
  - Lumpuh faring (hipersalivasi)
  - Lumpuh otot muka (rahang jatuh)
- Koma dan mati akibat kegagalan jantung dan kegagalan sistem pernafasan



Haiwan terjangkit akan berubah perangai, menjadi garang, bertukar suara, hilang selera, demam dan menggigit apa sahaja yang bergerak sekitarnya.

Fasa lumpuh atau dumbu pula mengakibatkan haiwan susah untuk makan, seperti terlekat, dagu jatuh atau air liur meleleh dan berbuih serta akan berakhir dengan kematian.

**TANDA-TANDA RABIES PADA ANJING**



# DIAGNOSIS

Diagnostik pada haiwan boleh dilakukan melalui ujian makmal iaitu **Fluorescent Antibody Test (FAT)** dari sampel otak haiwan. Ujian ini adalah **gold Standard** dalam mengesan jangkitan rabies dengan ketepatan 95-99% sebelum permulaan penyakit klinikal. Ujian kedua pula adalah **Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)**. Kedua-dua ujian ini memerlukan haiwan dimatikan untuk pengambilan sampel otak. Diagnosis haiwan hidup **tiada** melainkan terdapat simptom rabies dan 100% akan berakhir dengan kematian dalam tempoh 14 hari.

Diagnosis klinikal rabies pada manusia adalah sukar tanpa sejarah gigitan atau cakaran yang boleh dipercayai dengan haiwan rabies yang sudah mati atau gejala khusus hidrofobia atau aerophobia. Oleh itu sebelum gejala timbul suntikan **Rabies Immunoglobulin** pada tempat gigitan dan beberapa dos suntikan rabies vaksin untuk manusia adalah wajib.

Sebaik sahaja gejala muncul dan kematian tidak dapat dielakkan, penawaran penjagaan paliatif yang komprehensif dengan penuh belas kasihan adalah disyorkan.

Pengesahan post-mortem jangkitan rabies dilakukan dengan pelbagai teknik diagnostik untuk mengesan keseluruhan virus, antigen virus, atau asid nukleik dalam tisu yang dijangkiti (otak, kulit atau air liur). Haiwan yang menggigit harus dilupuskan dan sampel otak diambil untuk ujian makmal bagi pengesahan rabies.

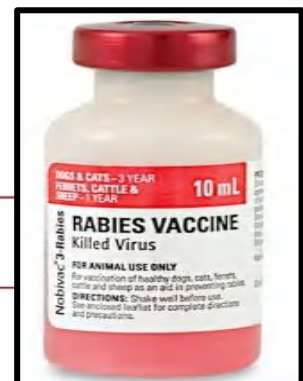




# STRATEGI DAN LANGKAH KAWALAN DAN PENCEGAHAN RABIES DI SARAWAK

1. **Vaksinasi Haiwan Peliharaan** adalah langkah paling penting dalam pencegahan rabies. Anjing dan kucing peliharaan harus divaksinasi setiap tahun termasuk anak anjing 3 bulan ke atas. Vaksin rabies membantu membina imuniti terhadap virus dan melindungi haiwan peliharaan daripada jangkitan. Selain itu, vaksinasi juga mengurangkan risiko penularan virus kepada manusia, yang sering berlaku melalui gigitan atau cakaran haiwan yang dijangkiti. Di Sarawak ianya menjadi kesalahan dan boleh didenda RM2,500 sekiranya tiada bukti anjing telah divaksin dibawah **seksyen 40, VPHO 1999 (Dog Vaccination Order)**. Jumlah populasi anjing yang tinggi iaitu dianggarkan 250,000 ekor dimana lebih separuh lepas bebas menyukarkan vaksinasi mencapai 70%. Oleh kerana itu, jabatan menumpukan perhatian kepada vaksinasi anjing sahaja kerana kekangan staf dan vaksin. Walau bagaimanapun, pemilik haiwan peliharaan selain daripada anjing dinasihatkan untuk mendapatkan vaksin daripada klinik haiwan yang berdekatan.

2. **Kawalan, Pengawasan Dan Penjagaan Haiwan Kesayangan** juga merupakan langkah kritikal dalam pencegahan rabies. Pemilik haiwan kesayangan harus memastikan bahawa anjing dan kucing mereka tidak berkeliaran di luar rumah tanpa pengawasan. Haiwan peliharaan yang berkeliaran bebas berisiko untuk berinteraksi dengan haiwan liar yang mungkin terinfeksi rabies. Kesalahan dibawah seksyen 37 dan boleh didenda RM5,000 kerana membiarkan anjing lepas bebas. Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan (PBT) melakukan penyingkiran atau **'targeted removal'** terhadap anjing yang lepas bebas dan tuan punya boleh didenda RM5,000 dibawah **seksyen 3 (Dog Licensing and Control) By-laws 2018**.



**3. Penguatkuasaan Undang-undang** oleh agensi dan Jabatan berkaitan seperti DVS Sarawak, Pihak Majlis Tempatan dibawah MPH LG, UKPS, JKNS dan PDRM memainkan peranan penting dalam pencegahan rabies. Kempen kesedaran mengenai bahaya rabies, kesedaran undang – undang dan pengeluaran kompoun harus dijalankan secara berterusan. Pihak DVS Sarawak boleh mendenda tuan punya anjing yang gagal mendapatkan suntikan rabies anjing sehingga RM1,250 dan pihak PBT perlu mendenda tuan punya anjing yang gagal melesenkan anjing mereka sehingga RM2,500. Manakala anjing yang berkeliaran akan ditangkap dan sekiranya tiada bukti suntikan rabies dan terdedah akan dilupuskan dan tuan punya yang menuntut akan didenda dibawah **sekyen 12 (Dog Licensing and Control) by-laws 2018**.

**4. Pemandulan Haiwan, Perlesenan dan Pemasangan Mikrochip.** Perlesenan anjing diwajibkan dibawah **seksyen 3 (Dog Licensing and Control) By-laws 2018**. Langkah ini akan memastikan setiap anjing yang dilesen telah disuntik vaksin dan bilangan anjing dapat dipantau serta mengenalpasti anjing yang sudah disuntik dan yang belum disuntik. Pemandulan pula mengurangkan populasi anjing. Pemandulan haiwan boleh dilakukan dimana-mana klinik haiwan swasta. Pemandulan bukan saja menyelamatkan haiwan dari berkeliaran tetapi juga menyelamatkan nyawa dari risiko penyakit.

**5. Dapatkan Suntikan Vaksin Rabies Dan Rawatan Segera** kalau dicakar atau digigit wajib dicuci dengan air sabun selama 15 minit dan segera ke hospital untuk mendapatkan rawatan dengan menyatakan sejarah yang tepat. Ini boleh menyelamatkan nyawa anda. Pihak JKNS akan memastikan semua klinik mereka mempunyai stok vaksin yang mencukupi. Oleh kerana penyakit rabies ini tiada ubat yang dapat menyembuhkannya sekiranya tanda-tanda sudah mula kelihatan. Maka masyarakat harus sedar tentang bahaya rabies dan akibatnya jika tidak dirawat jikalau digigit oleh anjing atau kucing yang dijangkiti rabies.



## **6. Sokongan Komuniti dan NGO kepada Inisiatif Kerajaan**

Komuniti dan orang awam harus menyokong usaha Kerajaan untuk membantu membanteras dan menghapuskan rabies di Sarawak. SSPCA adalah satu contoh NGO yang menyokong usaha Kerajaan membasmi rabies dengan bergiat aktif kempen vaksinasi, *responsible pet ownership*, *neutering* dan penjagaan haiwan. Orang awam perlu sedar bahawa membuang sampah dan memberi makanan kepada anjing atau kucing terbiar akan meninggikan lagi populasi mereka terutamanya yang tidak dimandulkan. Bilangan anjing dan kucing berkeliaran yang tinggi dan sentiasa beranak pinak menyukarkan hasrat kerajaan untuk membanteras rabies.

## **7. Pengurusan Data Maklumat dan Pelaporan**

Pengurusan data serta penyimpanan data dengan menggunakan platform **Rabies App** merupakan langkah paling kritikal dalam mengurus bilangan anjing yang disuntik vaksin rabies. Pemilik haiwan peliharaan harus memastikan bahawa anjing dan kucing mereka divaksinasi secara berkala dan disimpan rekod secara digital mengikut jadual yang disarankan oleh doktor haiwan. Data-data yang dikumpul oleh Majlis Tempatan (PBT), JKNS, klinik haiwan, SSPCA dan DVS Sarawak harus dikongsi di platform digital *Rabies App* supaya langkah yang berkesan dapat dilaksanakan dan menumpukan aktiviti di tempat yang sering dikesan rabies.

## **8. Rabies Eradication Program Dan Mobile Veterinary Team**

Merupakan program yang fokus kepada aktiviti berkaitan dengan pembasmian rabies. Mobile Veterinary Team (MVT) adalah pasukan khas yang akan ditubuhkan oleh Jabatan Veterinar dan memerlukan penambahan jawatan. Pasukan ini akan menjalankan aktiviti vaksinasi, penguatkuasaan, penyingkiran bersasar dan surveilan.

## **9. Survelan Dan Diagnosis Makmal**

Selain vaksinasi, diagnosis makmal dan surveilans yang cekap adalah penting. Oleh itu, kakitangan yang mencukupi adalah penting untuk melakukan aktiviti ini. Kolaborasi universiti tempatan seperti UNIMAS dan UPM boleh menjalankan kajian dalam membantu dan membangunkan teknologi diagnostik dalam aktiviti ini.

## **10. Integrated Bite Management System dan Operasi Bersepadu Rabies**

Inisiatif ini boleh menyelamatkan nyawa manusia dengan peralatan yang lengkap dan pengendalian kes yang cekap serta menambahbaik sistem kesihatan di setiap bahagian di Sarawak. JKNS, MPH LG, UKPS dan DVS Sarawak harus terus bekerjasama dalam sistem pengurusan kes gigitan dengan berkesan. Ini perlu dibuat di setiap Bahagian yang diterajui oleh Pejabat Residen.

## **11. Import Protokol dan Kawalan Pergerakan Haiwan dan Pewartaan**

Import protokol yang ketat untuk menghalang kemasukan rabies yang baru. Kucing dan anjing yang diimport perlu dikuarantin selama sekurang-kurangnya dua minggu dan juga perlu disuntik vaksin rabies. Semua baka anjing yang masuk ke Sarawak wajib dilesenkan, dimikrocip dan didaftarkan dalam sistem *Rabies App* untuk pemantauan dan rekod.

## **12. Penyelidikan, Latihan dan Penyediaan Sumber Kewangan yang mencukupi**

Program pendidikan ini boleh membantu membentuk generasi yang lebih bertanggungjawab dalam menjaga kesihatan diri dan masyarakat. Penganjuran *World Rabies Day* dan *Rabies in Borneo Conference* setiap tahun dapat memberi latihan, pengetahuan dan inovasi secara berterusan. Kajian vaksin baru seperti penggunaan oral vaksin boleh dikembangkan. Penyelidikan oleh universiti tempatan tentang pembuatan vaksin baru dan sebagainya boleh membentuk sistem yang berkesan di Sarawak.





# KESEDARAN MASYARAKAT DAN PENDIDIKAN

## 1. Kesedaran Komuniti Berterusan (*Public Awareness*)

Masih ramai yang tidak memahami kepentingan anjing atau kucing mereka perlu disuntik vaksin. Mereka tidak mengambil berat tentang rawatan apabila digigit, dicakar atau terdedah dengan virus rabies. Faktor ini menyebabkan kes rabies masih dikesan di Sarawak. Kempen kesedaran perlu disebar melalui media sosial, cetak dan elektronik, ceramah umum, dan bahan pendidikan seperti brosur dan poster. Pendidikan awam harus fokus pada penyebaran maklumat mengenai cara penyebaran virus rabies, gejala awal yang perlu diwaspadai, dan langkah-langkah pencegahan yang boleh diambil. Dengan memberikan maklumat yang berterusan, masyarakat akan lebih memahami risiko dan tindakan yang perlu diambil untuk melindungi diri mereka dan haiwan peliharaan mereka.

## 2. Pendidikan Berterusan diperingkat Sekolah Rendah Dan Penubuhan Kelab Kesayangan Haiwan Dan Kesedaran Rabies.

Sekolah dan institusi pendidikan juga memainkan peranan penting dalam meningkatkan kesedaran tentang rabies secara berpanjangan. Melalui program pendidikan yang melibatkan pelajar, kita dapat menanam kesedaran tentang bahaya rabies dan langkah-langkah pencegahannya sejak usia muda. Program pendidikan ini boleh membantu membentuk generasi yang lebih bertanggungjawab (**Responsible Pet Ownership**) dalam menjaga keselamatan diri dan masyarakat. Salah satu cadangan yang baik adalah penubuhan Kelab Kesedaran Rabies dan Penjagaan Haiwan Kesayangan di peringkat sekolah dan pusat komuniti.



# VAKSIN RABIES UNTUK MANUSIA

Vaksin rabies untuk manusia adalah vaksin yang digunakan untuk mencegahjangkitan rabies. Rabies adalah penyakit virus yang serius dan akan membawa maut jika tidak dirawat sebelum gejala muncul. Vaksin rabies dapat digunakan dalam dua situasi utama: vaksinasi pra-pendedahan dan vaksinasi pasca-pendedahan.

## **Vaksinasi Pra-Pendedahan**

Vaksinasi pra-pendedahan disarankan untuk individu yang berisiko tinggi terdedah kepada rabies, seperti pekerja Jabatan Veterinar dan klinik haiwan, individu yang bekerja dalam pengendalian haiwan serta makmal pengesanan virus rabies. Vaksinasi ini membantu membina imuniti sebelum kemungkinan terdedah kepada virus. Vaksin diberi 3 dos iaitu hari 0, 7 dan 21. **Booster doses** diperlukan untuk individu yang terdedah.

## **Vaksinasi Pasca-Pendedahan**

Vaksinasi pasca-pendedahan diberikan kepada individu yang telah digigit atau dicakar atau terdedah kepada air liur haiwan yang mungkin terinfeksi rabies. Vaksin ini mesti diberikan secepat mungkin selepas terdedah untuk mencegah virus dari menjangkiti sistem saraf pusat. Vaksinasi pasca-pendedahan biasanya melibatkan beberapa suntikan yang diberikan dalam tempoh 14 hari dengan 4 dos iaitu hari 0, 3, 7 dan 14. **Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG)** juga disuntik dalam hari pertama.

# CEGAH RABIES DENGAN CEPAT!

1

## **Pencegahan Penyakit yang Membawa Maut**

Rabies membawa maut jika tidak dirawat sebelum gejala muncul. Segera ke hospital jika digigit atau dicakar. Cuci luka selama 15 minit dengan air mengalir. Vaksin rabies adalah cara yang paling berkesan untuk mencegah penyakit ini.

2

## **Vaksin memberi Perlindungan Imuniti**

Vaksinasi membantu tubuh membina antibodi yang boleh melawan virus rabies jika seseorang/haiwan terdedah kepadanya. Anjing perlu divaksin lebih 70% untuk mencapai *herd immunity*.

3

## **Kesedaran Masyarakat**

Kesedaran masyarakat tentang bahaya rabies amat penting untuk elak kematian. Dengan lebih banyak anjing yang divaksinasi sehingga 70% dari populasi anjing. Risiko penularan virus rabies dikalangan anjing dapat dikurangkan.

4

## **Urus Dan Kawal Populasi Haiwan**

Pemandulan semua anjing dan kucing adalah penting untuk mengurangkan bilangan haiwan dan bilangan kes melalui gigitan atau cakaran haiwan yang terjangkit.



# TEMUBUAL PAKAR



## **Professor Louis Nel, Pengarah Eksekutif *Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)***

Rabies menyebabkan sekurang-kurangnya 59,000 kematian manusia setiap tahun, terutama di Afrika dan Asia. Vaksinasi anjing, pendidikan, dan kesedaran masyarakat adalah penting dalam pencegahan. Hari Rabies Sedunia dan GARC meningkatkan kesedaran global dan kerjasama dalam pencegahan rabies. Kawalan rabies memerlukan usaha global yang menyeluruh dengan pendekatan 'One Health'.



## **Dr Florence Cliquet, Pengarah Penyelidikan di Makmal ANSES untuk Rabies dan Hidupan Liar (WOAH)**

*Political will* secara total penting untuk penghapusan rabies. Vaksinasi anjing, penggunaan *rabies bait* selain vaksin suntikan, dan kesedaran masyarakat adalah kunci kejayaan. Survelan berterusan di kawasan sukar dijangkau juga diperlukan. Penglibatan masyarakat dalam pengesanan rabies sangat penting. *Wildlife is the main reservoir and vector of rabies in Europe and America, mainly foxes, vampire bats, raccoons and skunks.*



## **Dr Phillip Winn, (Anthropologist) ANU College of Asia & the Pacific, The Australian National University**

Rabies anjing, yang sebelumnya tidak wujud di Maluku hingga 2003, kini endemik di Ambon. Wabak terkini di Barat Daya Maluku dikaitkan dengan peningkatan pergerakan anjing, terutamanya disebabkan permintaan anjing yang tinggi dan pengangkutan haiwan peliharaan. Kawalan yang berkesan tetapi mencabar. Perlu vaksin 70% dari keseluruhan populasi anjing untuk mengekang rabies.





Deputy Premier YB Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah, Chairman, State Disaster Management Committee (SDMC), The Sarawak disaster management committee has come out with rabies elimination strategies, says Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas. who also chairs the committee, said this included the ongoing vaccination programme for dogs.

## World Rabies Day 2024



World Rabies Day is the biggest event on the global rabies calendar, coordinated by GARC and it has been commemorated every year on September 28 – the anniversary of the death of Louis Pasteur – since 2007. World Rabies Day aims to raise awareness and advocate for rabies elimination globally. It is an event designed to be inclusive, uniting people, organizations, and stakeholders across all sectors against rabies – because together we can eliminate rabies! With this concept of overcoming the challenges that prevent us from working together in mind, the theme for this year's World Rabies Day is:

## Why this theme?

Every year, we select a theme that we believe is most relevant to the current situation and global trends for rabies and also health in general. This year, we want to highlight the need to go beyond the norm and to break through the boundaries that prevent us from achieving rabies elimination. We need to move beyond the status quo so that we can achieve our collective goal of Zero by 30. Because so many boundaries potentially exist that prevent us from achieving rabies elimination, the theme has been made purposefully open so that it can be used to address any of these boundaries, ranging from One Health, collaboration across diseases, boundaries to vaccination and many more. In addition, there is a double meaning in the theme in that rabies itself breaks international boundaries as rabies is a transboundary disease.

# WORLD RABIES DAY 2024



**Datu Dr Adrian Susin,  
Chairman, Organising Committee**

Pada Hari Rabies Sedunia 2024, Dewan Masyarakat Kampung Semeba di Kuching, Sarawak, menjadi simbol harapan dan tindakan dalam memerangi rabies. Satu siri ceramah yang memberikan pencerahan telah disampaikan oleh penceramah jemputan, menyediakan maklumat penting mengenai pelbagai aspek pencegahan rabies dan pemilikan haiwan peliharaan yang bertanggungjawab. Dr. Nicholas Jenek, Timbalan Pengarah (Kesihatan dan Pematuhan Veterinar) Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sarawak (DVSS), bercakap mengenai kepentingan vaksinasi dan pensterilan. Pandangannya menekankan peranan kritikal langkah-langkah ini dalam mengawal penyebaran rabies dan memastikan kesihatan haiwan peliharaan.

Hari Rabies Sedunia 2024, yang dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sarawak, berlangsung pada 28 September 2024 dengan tema **"Menembusi Batasan Rabies"**. Acara ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran tentang rabies serta memupuk tindakan kolektif untuk menghapuskan penyakit ini.

Program ini juga melibatkan penyertaan sekolah rendah dalam usaha meningkatkan kesedaran di kalangan kanak-kanak mengenai bahaya rabies dan langkah pencegahannya. Melalui aktiviti pendidikan dan ceramah, murid-murid sekolah rendah diberi pengetahuan mengenai cara-cara untuk mencegah gigitan dan cakaran haiwan, pentingnya vaksinasi haiwan peliharaan, dan tindakan yang perlu diambil jika terdedah kepada risiko rabies.





## KEMPEN KESEDARAN AWAM: TANGGUNGJAWAB ANDA DALAM MENCEGAH RABIES.



Dr. Caroline Jhayssy Manja, Pegawai Perubatan dari Unit Kawalan Penyakit Berjangkit Pejabat Kesihatan Bahagian Kuching, menyampaikan ceramah komprehensif mengenai rabies. Pembentangannya, yang bertajuk "Semua Tentang Rabies," meliputi penularan penyakit, simptom, dan kepentingan vaksinasi tepat pada masanya. Kepakaran Dr. Caroline memberikan pemahaman yang lebih mendalam kepada para peserta mengenai rabies dan langkah-langkah yang perlu diambil untuk mencegahnya. Datin Dona Drury Wee, Presiden Persatuan Pencegahan Kekejaman terhadap Haiwan Sarawak (SSPCA), menyampaikan ceramah mengenai pemilikan haiwan peliharaan yang bertanggungjawab dan pencegahan gigitan anjing. Ceramahnya menekankan tanggungjawab pemilik haiwan peliharaan dalam memastikan kesejahteraan haiwan mereka dan keselamatan komuniti. Kempen Datin Dona Wee untuk layanan yang berperikemanusiaan dan penjagaan yang betul terhadap haiwan sangat dihargai oleh para hadirin.



**Datin Dona Wee, Pengerusi SSPCA**

Encik Thomas Gown, ketua kampung Kampung Semeba, menyambut tetamu dan peserta dengan ucapan yang tulus ikhlas. Ucapannya mencerminkan kesatuan komuniti dan tekad mereka dalam memerangi rabies. Yang Berbahagia Datu Dr. Adrian Susin Ambud, Pengarah DVS Sarawak, menyampaikan ucapan perasmian dengan menekankan pentingnya usaha kolaboratif dalam mencapai penghapusan rabies dan tanggungjawab komuniti. Acara vaksinasi besar-besaran di Kampung Semeba lebih daripada sekadar latihan kesedaran; ia adalah demonstrasi semangat komuniti dan kerjasama yang erat. Kolaborasi antara Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sarawak (DVS), Jabatan Kesihatan Sarawak, dan Persatuan Pencegahan Kekejaman terhadap Haiwan Sarawak (SSPCA) mempamerkan keberkesanan usaha bersama dalam menangani cabaran kesihatan awam.



**Dr Nicholas Jenek, Ketua Rabies Eradication Program**

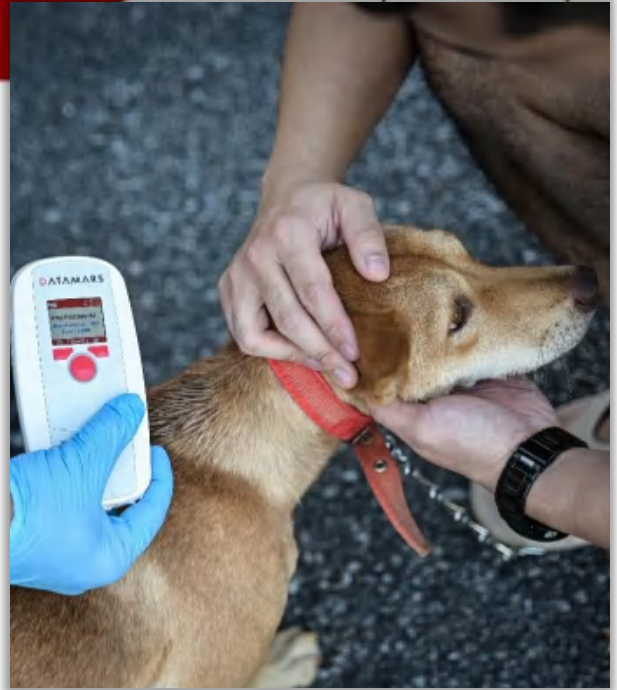


## Program mass vaccination, licensing & microchipping anjing



**Sijil vaksin pada anjing**

Acara ini menyaksikan kehadiran yang memberangsangkan, dengan sejumlah 115 ekor anjing divaksinasi. Ini termasuk 48 ekor anjing menerima dos pertama mereka dan 67 ekor anjing menerima suntikan penggalak. Selain itu, 49 ekor anjing yang dilesenkan oleh Majlis Perbandaran Padawan dan 6 ekor anjing yang dilesenkan oleh Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan turut serta dalam inisiatif penting ini. Kadar penyertaan yang tinggi menekankan kesedaran komuniti dan sikap proaktif terhadap pencegahan rabies.



**Pengesanan mikrochip anjing, ID anjing kekal sepanjang hayat**

Di akhir program ini, kejayaan jelas kelihatan bukan hanya dalam jumlah anjing yang divaksinasi tetapi juga dalam peningkatan kesedaran dan komitmen komuniti terhadap pencegahan rabies. Acara ini menjadi peringatan bahawa melalui pendidikan, kerjasama, dan langkah-langkah proaktif, matlamat Sarawak bebas rabies adalah dalam jangkauan.







Hari Rabies Sedunia ini dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Veterinar Sarawak untuk setiap tahun bagi meningkatkan kesedaran masyarakat tentang bahaya Rabies dan cara pencegahan serta tanggungjawab tuan punya haiwan kesayangan. Tema Hari Rabies Sedunia 2024, **"Menembusi Batasan Rabies"**, bermaksud untuk menunjukkan komitmen global dalam mengatasi dan menghapuskan penyakit rabies. Tema ini mengajak semua pihak untuk bekerjasama melangkaui batasan geografi, sosial, dan ekonomi demi mencapai matlamat *Zero by 30*, iaitu tiada kematian manusia akibat rabies yang dibawa oleh anjing menjelang tahun 2030. Ianya juga menekankan pentingnya inovasi, kesedaran, dan tindakan bersepadu dalam melaksanakan program vaksinasi, pendidikan masyarakat, dan kerjasama pelbagai sektor untuk mencegah dan mengendalikan penyakit ini di seluruh dunia, termasuk di Sarawak.



**BREAKING  
RABIES  
BOUNDARIES**



# RABIES IN BORNEO (RIB) 2024



Rabies masih menjadi ancaman serius di Borneo, membahayakan nyawa manusia dan haiwan. Untuk menangani isu ini, persidangan "Rabies In Borneo 2024" telah diadakan dari 30 September hingga 1 Oktober 2024 di Imperial Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak. Persidangan ini bertujuan mengumpulkan pakar, pemimpin komuniti, dan pihak berkepentingan untuk berkongsi pengetahuan, menggalakkan kerjasama, dan melaksanakan strategi berkesan untuk pencegahan dan kawalan rabies.

Rabies adalah penyakit virus yang menyerang sistem saraf pusat dan boleh membawa maut jika tidak dirawat. Penyakit ini disebarkan melalui gigitan atau cakaran haiwan yang dijangkiti, dengan anjing sebagai pembawa utama. Di Borneo (Sarawak dan Kalimantan), rabies adalah masalah yang berterusan yang jika tidak dibendung. Objektif utama persidangan ini ialah untuk meningkatkan kesedaran tentang rabies, berkongsi penemuan penyelidikan terkini, dan membangunkan strategi untuk mencapai Borneo bebas rabies menjelang tahun 2030.



**Deputy Premier YB Datuk Amar Dr Sim**

Ucapan utama oleh pakar terkenal dalam penyelidikan rabies dan kesihatan awam akan menjadi elemen penting persidangan. Mereka akan memberikan pandangan tentang usaha global dan tempatan dalam memerangi rabies, serta menyoroti kajian kes berjaya dan penyelesaian inovatif.

Persidangan ini merangkumi pembentangan, bengkel, dan perbincangan panel mengenai pelbagai aspek pencegahan rabies. Topik yang telah dibincangkan termasuk strategi vaksinasi yang berkesan, penglibatan komuniti, dan inovasi dalam diagnosis dan rawatan rabies, dengan tujuan membekalkan peserta dengan pengetahuan dan alat untuk melaksanakan langkah kawalan rabies yang berkesan.



**YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom**



Penglibatan komuniti adalah penting dalam pencegahan rabies, terutama di kawasan luar bandar yang terhad akses kepada perkhidmatan veterinar. Persidangan ini menekankan inisiatif pendidikan dan program vaksinasi yang dipimpin oleh komuniti untuk meningkatkan kawalan rabies.



Perundangan dan penguatkuasaan juga memainkan peranan penting dalam kawalan rabies. Rangka kerja perundangan yang kukuh dan langkah penguatkuasaan yang berkesan adalah perlu untuk memastikan pematuhan kepada protokol pencegahan rabies. Persidangan ini telah membincangkan undang-undang sedia ada, mengenal pasti kekurangan, dan membuat cadangan untuk memperbaiki perundangan.

Peserta telah mendapat manfaat daripada pembelajaran mengenai program kawalan rabies yang berjaya dilaksanakan di negara lain. Kajian kes ini telah memberikan pandangan praktikal tentang strategi berkesan dan menekankan pengajaran yang diperolehi. Dengan menerapkan model kejayaan ini di Borneo, rantau ini dapat meningkatkan usaha kawalan rabies dan bergerak lebih dekat ke arah mencapai status bebas rabies.

**Ybhg. Datu Dr Chai, Pengarah UKPS memberi penerangan sistem IBET**

Persidangan ini telah memaparkan teknologi dan kaedah baru yang digunakan di seluruh dunia, seperti alat diagnostik canggih dan sistem penghantaran vaksin yang inovatif. Penyelesaian inovatif ini berpotensi merevolusikan usaha kawalan rabies dan memperbaiki strategi di Borneo.

Persidangan ini merangkumi sesi soal jawab, memberi peluang kepada peserta untuk berinteraksi terus dengan pakar. Sesi interaktif ini telah menggalakkan perbincangan, memupuk kerjasama, dan membolehkan peserta mendapat pemahaman yang lebih mendalam tentang pencegahan dan kawalan rabies.

Sebagai kesimpulan, persidangan "*Rabies In Borneo 2024*" bertujuan untuk menyatukan pihak yang berkepentingan dalam usaha memerangi rabies. Ianya untuk menyedari para peserta bahawa dengan usaha dan komitmen yang berterusan, pembasmian rabies adalah dalam jangkauan.



**Sokongan padu dari Timbalan Premier YB Datuk Amar Prof Dr Sim dan YB Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi, Menteri M-FICORD**







**Dr Ho Ah Chia,  
Public Health Medical Specialist**

Sejak dimulakan pada tahun 2022, persidangan "Rabies In Borneo" telah memainkan peranan penting dalam menangani krisis rabies di wilayah ini. Acara perdana berfokus kepada peningkatan kesedaran, perkongsian pengetahuan, dan penekanan pada kepentingan usaha kerjasama antara agensi kerajaan, NGO, dan komuniti setempat. Persidangan kedua pada tahun 2023 pula membentuk asas penyelesaian dengan kaedah inovatif, kajian kes yang berjaya, serta keperluan untuk rangka kerja perundangan yang kukuh dan inisiatif yang dipimpin oleh komuniti.



**Dr Andrea Britton  
Global One Health Advisor**

Persidangan ke-tiga 'RIB2024' pula bertujuan untuk memantapkan lagi inisiatif dengan tema "Menembusi Batas Rabies." Ia akan memberi tumpuan kepada penglibatan komuniti tempatan, menambahbaik undang-undang dan penguatkuasaan, serta mempamerkan penyelesaian inovatif. Melalui pendidikan berterusan, inovasi, dan kerjasama, persidangan ini berusaha untuk membawa rantau ini lebih dekat untuk mencapai Borneo bebas rabies menjelang tahun 2030.



**Prof. Dato' Dr Quaza,  
Taylor's University**



*Rabies In Borneo (RIB)* diilhamkan oleh YBhg. Datu Dr Adrian Susin Ambud, Pengarah DVS Sarawak dengan kerjasama Place Borneo Sdn. Bhd (PB). DVSS dan PB bersama menganjur persidangan RIB setiap tahun dalam usaha dan inisiatif yang diambil di Borneo untuk menangani dan menghapuskan penyakit rabies, iaitu virus yang sangat berbahaya yang boleh menyebabkan kematian jika tidak dirawat dengan segera. Rabies menular melalui gigitan atau cakaran haiwan yang dijangkiti, dengan anjing menjadi pembawa utama virus ini.

Inisiatif "*Rabies in Borneo*" bertujuan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran awam mengenai bahaya rabies, berkongsi pengetahuan dan amalan terbaik dalam pencegahan dan kawalan rabies, serta menggalakkan kerjasama antara pihak berkuasa kesihatan, veterinar, dan komuniti. Melalui pendekatan yang komprehensif seperti vaksinasi haiwan, pendidikan masyarakat, dan penguatkuasaan undang-undang yang ketat, matlamat utama inisiatif ini adalah untuk mencapai status Borneo bebas rabies menjelang tahun 2030. Konferens tahunan yang diadakan sejak tahun 2022 adalah platform penting untuk berkongsi perkembangan terkini, teknologi inovatif, dan strategi berkesan dalam memerangi rabies di Borneo terutamanya di Sarawak, Sabah, Kalimantan dan negara Brunei Darussalam.

# RABIES IN BORNEO



**KUCHING  
2024**

**RABIES  
IN BORNEO**



# 4 QUICK TIPS to prevent rabies

## 4 LANGKAH SEGERA!

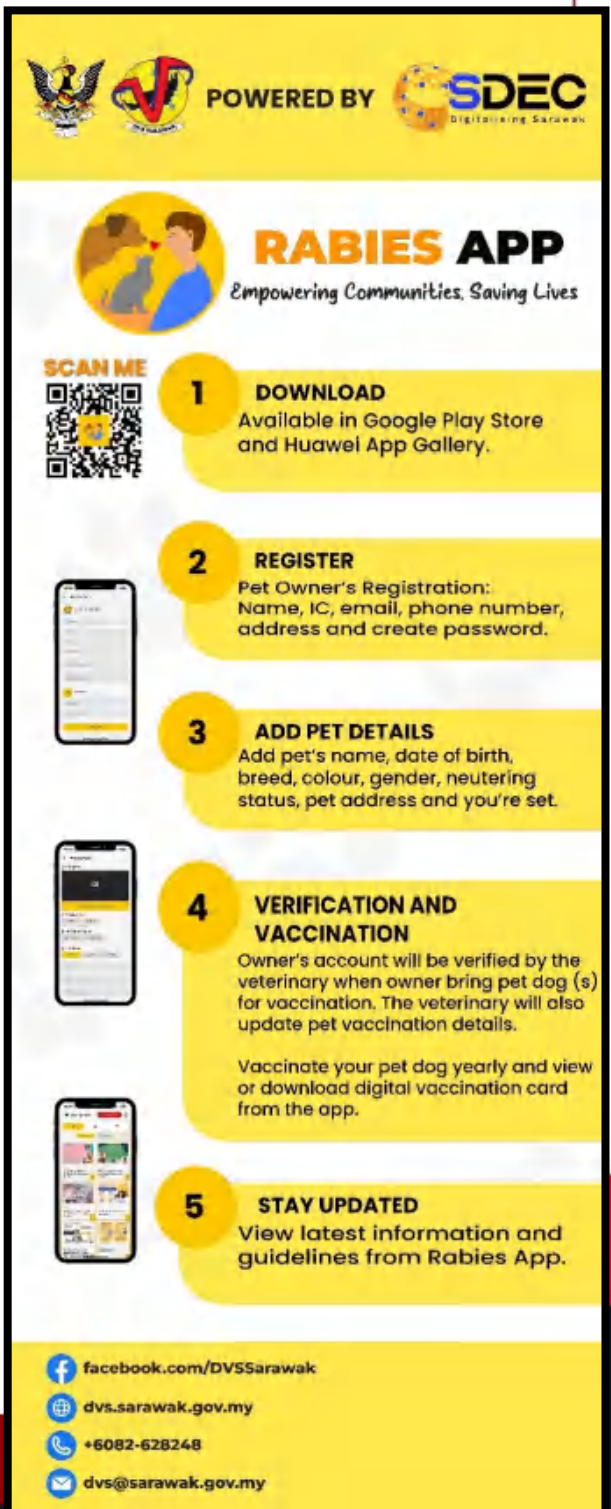


Neuter your pet, get your pet license and help us to control animal population.



# INISIATIF DIGITALISASI DVS SARAWAK: RABIES APP

*Rabies App Sarawak* adalah aplikasi mudah alih yang direka oleh Jabatan Veterinar Sarawak dengan kerjasama dengan *Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC)* untuk membantu pengguna mengakses maklumat terkini mengenai rabies, rekod vaksinasi haiwan peliharaan, *traceability*, status populasi anjing, anjing liar dan lapor kejadian rabies di Sarawak dengan cepat. Aplikasi ini memudahkan pemantauan dan pencegahan rabies melalui interaksi yang lebih mudah dan efisien.



**POWERED BY**  **SDEC**  
Digitalising Sarawak

 **RABIES APP**  
Empowering Communities. Saving Lives

**SCAN ME**  


- 1 DOWNLOAD**  
Available in Google Play Store and Huawei App Gallery.
- 2 REGISTER**  
Pet Owner's Registration: Name, IC, email, phone number, address and create password.
- 3 ADD PET DETAILS**  
Add pet's name, date of birth, breed, colour, gender, neutering status, pet address and you're set.
- 4 VERIFICATION AND VACCINATION**  
Owner's account will be verified by the veterinary when owner bring pet dog (s) for vaccination. The veterinary will also update pet vaccination details.  
Vaccinate your pet dog yearly and view or download digital vaccination card from the app.
- 5 STAY UPDATED**  
View latest information and guidelines from Rabies App.

 [facebook.com/DVSSarawak](https://facebook.com/DVSSarawak)  
 [dvs.sarawak.gov.my](https://dvs.sarawak.gov.my)  
 +6082-628248  
 [dvs@sarawak.gov.my](mailto:dvs@sarawak.gov.my)

# DVSS RABIES HOTLINE: 016 255 7267

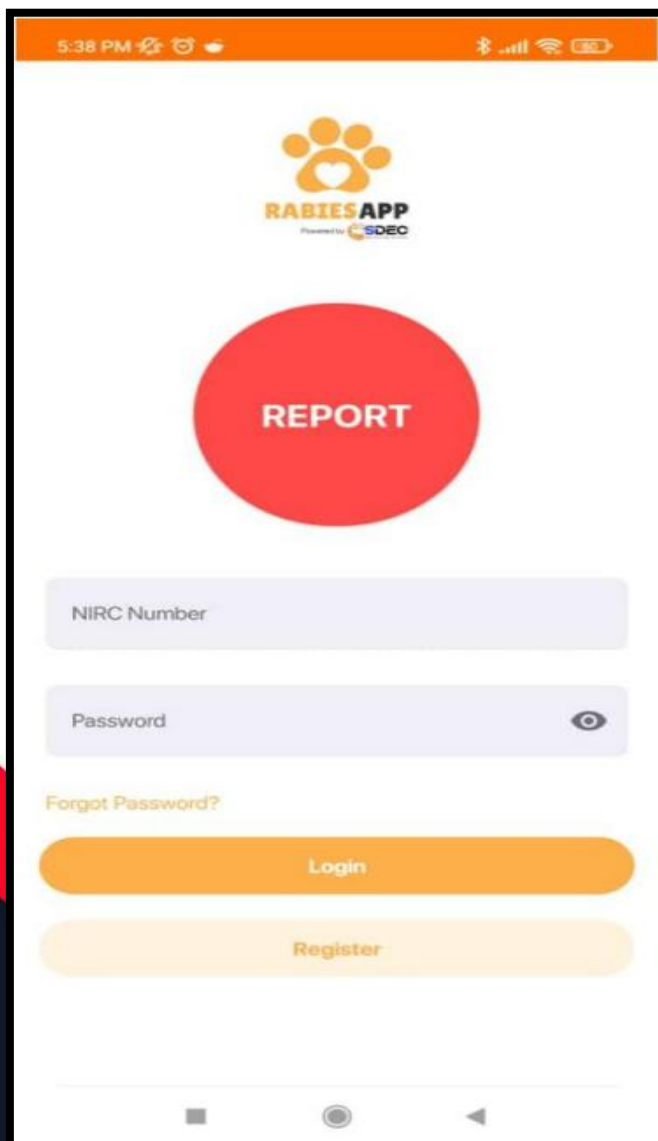
**! RABIES HOTLINE 016 205 1111 IS NO LONGER IN USE**

## DVSS - DIVISIONAL VETERINARY OFFICE CONTACT NUMBERS FOR **FREE ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION**

**OPENING HOURS: 8.00 AM - 5.00 PM**

|                  |                        |                |                |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>KUCHING</b>   | +6 082 628 249/250/255 | <b>KAPIT</b>   | +6 084 798 280 |
| <b>SERIAN</b>    | +6 019 204 5829        | <b>MUKAH</b>   | +6 084 871 050 |
| <b>SAMARAHAN</b> | +6 082 671 221         | <b>BINTULU</b> | +6 086 335 770 |
| <b>SRI AMAN</b>  | +6 083 322 106         | <b>MIRI</b>    | +6 085 411 866 |
| <b>BETONG</b>    | +6 083 471 622         | <b>LIMBANG</b> | +6 085 215 879 |

### DIGITALIZATION OF PETS REGISTRATION AND RABIES REPORT



5:38 PM

**RABIESAPP**  
Powered by CDEC

**REPORT**

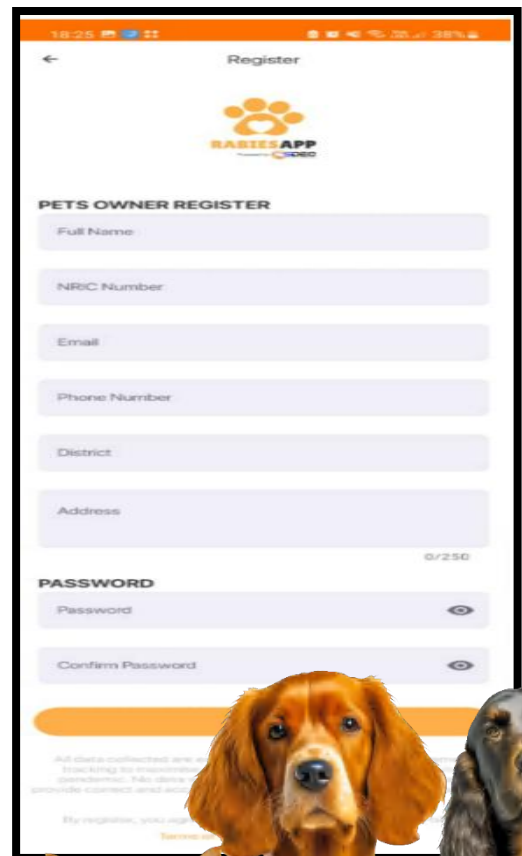
NIRC Number

Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

[Login](#)

[Register](#)



18:25

**RABIESAPP**  
Powered by CDEC

**PETS OWNER REGISTER**

Full Name

NIRC Number

Email

Phone Number

District

Address

0/250

**PASSWORD**

Password

Confirm Password

All data collected are for tracking the rabies pandemic. No data will be shared with any other agency. Provide correct and accurate information.

By register, you agree to the terms and conditions.







# 'Rabies remains significant public health threat in S'wak'

Lim How Pin

**KUCHING:** Rabies has claimed 74 lives in Sarawak since the outbreak in 2017, said Minister of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom.

He regarded rabies as 'still a significant public health threat in Sarawak'.

"Since 2017, we have reported 81 human rabies infections, leading to a tragic 74 fatalities.

"So far this year, six new cases have emerged, emphasising the urgency of our situation," he said in his speech at the World Rabies Day 2024 at Kampung Semeba here on Saturday.

The text of his speech was delivered by Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Sarawak director Datu Dr Adrian Susin Ambud.

Dr Rundi said globally, rabies claimed over 59,000 lives each year, predominantly in Asia and Africa, and these statistics served as a stark reminder that Sarawakians must take immediate action to protect their community and loved ones.

He pointed out mass vaccination as among the most effective measures.



Children take part in one of the activities run in conjunction with the World Rabies Day 2024 programme at Kampung Semeba.

"Vaccinating our dogs is not only a protective measure for our pets, but also a vital step in safeguarding public health. As dogs are the primary reservoir of rabies virus in our state, ensuring they are vaccinated significantly reduces the risk of transmission to humans," he said.

Dr Rundi lauded the continued efforts by DVS Sarawak, the Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government, the state Health Department and the Sarawak Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in keeping the community and pets safe from rabies.

"Equally important is the awareness of dog licensing. Licensing is not just a legal requirement, as it is a critical component of responsible pet ownership.

"Under local regulations, all dog owners must license their pets with local councils," he said.

## 'RIB 2024 a platform for S'wak to learn viable rabies eradication measures'

**KUCHING:** The Rabies in Borneo (RIB) 2024 stands a crucial platform for Sarawak to learn from countries that have managed or are on their way to achieve 'Zero Rabies' status.

According to Minister of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom, the two-day conference gathers experts from countries including Brunei, the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Australia and Brazil, who come to share their experiences as well as gain important ideas and opinions

for Southeast Asia and Sarawak.

"We must connect with those from countries that have nearly or completely eradicated rabies, learn about their methods and the steps that they took, and how we can replicate their success," he said in his speech for conference's opening ceremony here yesterday.

Adding on, Dr Rundi said communication alone is insufficient to prevent rabies, with law enforcement measures needed to ensure all Sarawakians support the government's goal of achieving the zero-rabies target

by 2030.

"While rabies poses a significant challenge for countries worldwide and that the efforts to eliminate rabies face many challenges, the problem is not insurmountable. I note that rabies-related deaths are predominantly reported in Asia; thus, everyone on this continent facing this issue should work together to find solutions.

"When I read about rabies-related deaths, I see that they happen more often in Asian countries. It is now time for us to be united in our efforts," he said.



## Bintulu woman confirmed as Sarawak's sixth rabies death in 2024

**KUCHING:** A 32-year-old woman from Sebauh in Bintulu was confirmed as the sixth rabies death in Sarawak for this year, bringing the number of deaths since 2017 to 74.

Sarawak Health director Dr Veronica Lughah, in a statement yesterday, said the woman died

while receiving treatment at Bintulu Hospital on Aug 31.

"The woman began experiencing a fever on Aug 24. Three days later, she experienced weakness in both legs, hyper-salivation, hydrophobia, aerophobia, aggression, hallucinations and sensitivity to light.

"She sought treatment at the Emergency and Trauma Unit of Bintulu Hospital on Aug 28, before being confirmed positive for rabies. According to the investigation, the woman had a history of handling her three pet dog carcasses, which had died and shown frothing at the mouth,

without any protective gear in July 2024 in Sebauh," she said.

Dr Veronica also revealed that the woman's dogs had not been vaccinated against rabies and had been allowed to roam freely outside the house compound.

● Turn to Page 2, Col 4

# Premier: Sarawak averaging 360 animal bite cases weekly

Mathew Umpang

**KUCHING:** Sarawak needs to urgently act to battle rabies as 12,587 animal bite cases were reported from January to August this year – an average of 360 cases weekly, said the Premier.

Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said six new human rabies cases have been reported in Sarawak in 2024.

He pointed out that 55.34 per cent (6,966 cases) of animal bites were caused by cats, while dogs accounted for 43.3 per cent (5,451 cases) and the remaining 1.35 per cent (170 cases) involved bites from other animals.

A significant 69.14 per cent (8,703 cases) of bites were caused by pets, while 30.86 per cent (3,884 cases) involved wild or stray animals.

Highlighting the severity of rabies as a fatal yet preventable disease, Abang Johari stressed the importance of vaccination.

He said the Rabies in Borneo (RIB) 2024 conference will serve as a platform for sharing the latest control and prevention strategies.

"Through the forum, it is an opportunity for us to come together, learn, and share our knowledge and experiences," he said in a speech read by Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian at the conference's launch yesterday.

He acknowledged that dogs are the primary carriers of rabies in Sarawak, thus the focus of the state's rabies prevention initiatives include mass dog vaccination, licensing, microchipping, dog population control, awareness campaigns, surveillance, and disease monitoring.

He pointed out the key player in these efforts is the Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET), established by the state government under the Sarawak Security and Enforcement Unit (UKPS) to prevent rabies from



Dr Sim (fourth right) is flanked by Dr Rundi (left) and Adrian during a conference photo call.

spreading across the 1,032km Sarawak-Kalimantan border.

"IBET has actively monitored the movement of rabid dogs, conducted disease surveillance, and vaccinated 21,860 dogs, achieving 89 per cent herd immunity within the immune belt zone in 2023.

"Overall, 36,900 dogs have been vaccinated across Sarawak by the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVS) and IBET, moving closer to the target of 50,000 by year-end," he said.

With rabies cases rising, Abang Johari reminded the public to take precautions and seek medical attention if bitten by an animal.

He urged dog owners to be responsible by ensuring their pets are neutered and vaccinated, as mandated under Section 40 of the Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999 (VPHO) while non-compliance could result in fines of up to RM1,000.



He also warned dog owners who let their dogs roam freely could face fines of up to RM2,500 under Section 37 of the VPHO.

"Additionally, dog owners must keep their pets under effective control and obtain licences from local councils, or they may face fines of up to RM5,000 under the Local Authorities (Dog Licensing and Control) by-laws, 2018," he said.

Abang Johari also commended the collaboration of various agencies, including the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVSS); the

Ministry of Public Health, Housing, and Local Government; UKPS; Health Department; and Sarawak Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for fighting rabies and protecting the community.

He added the Sarawak government is working with other countries in the region to combat rabies and encouraged all stakeholders to collaborate in controlling and eliminating the disease.

"We need to work together to educate the public, monitor, and stay one step ahead of this disease. I am however confident that through collective efforts and knowledge-sharing, Sarawak can achieve the goal of becoming rabies-free by 2030," he said.

Among those present were Minister of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom and DVSS director Datu Dr Adrian Susin Ambud.



# Anti-rabies vaccine campaigns being run in Sibu, Bintulu



**Lim How Pim**

[limhp@theborneopost.com](mailto:limhp@theborneopost.com)

**KUCHING:** The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Sarawak held two anti-rabies vaccination campaigns last weekend.

As stated in a post on the department's Facebook page, a total of 38 dogs in Sekau, Sibu, as well as 56 dogs in Bintulu, had undergone vaccination.

"The vaccination programme in Sekau recorded 35 dogs receiving their first dose, while the remaining ones getting booster shots. Additionally, nine dogs were also micro-chipped after being issued the licences," it added.

DVS Sarawak also said the vaccination programme was a collaboration between DVS Sibu and the Sibu Rural District Council (SRDC), with the core objective of controlling and preventing the spread of rabies in the area.

"It also meant to raise community's awareness of the

This vaccination campaign is part of an ongoing effort to control and prevent the spread of rabies in the Bintulu area. With the cooperation of local authorities and the community, it is hoped that this effort could ensure the safety and health of pets and local residents.

**DVS Sarawak**

importance of rabies vaccination so as to ensure that people would be free from the threat of this disease," it added.

In another Facebook post, DVS Sarawak said the vaccination programme that took place at Balai Raya Sungai Plan in Bintulu last Saturday, involved 29 dogs receiving their first jab, and another 27 getting the booster doses.

"This vaccination campaign is part of an ongoing effort to control and prevent the spread of rabies in the Bintulu area. With the cooperation of local authorities and the community, it is hoped that this effort could ensure the safety and health of

pets and local residents."

DVS Sarawak also extended appreciation to all those involved in making these programmes a success.

"Hopefully this noble effort could be continued in the future for the betterment of the community."

DVS Sarawak also appealed to the community in the Padawan areas to support another anti-rabies vaccination drive, set to take place at Taman Indah Landeh multipurpose hall this Aug 24, running from 9am to 3pm.

"Don't forget to bring your pet's vaccination record. Let's make Padawan rabies-free together," added DVS Sarawak.

## Sarawak wants to be rabies-free by 2030 with public help

**By SHARON LING**  
[sharonling@theborneopost.com](mailto:sharonling@theborneopost.com)

**KUCHING:** Sarawak can be free of rabies by 2030 with cooperation from the public, says Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian.

He said that while the state government was implementing rabies control and prevention measures, it was also important for the public to do their part.

"Dog owners must get yearly vaccinations for their pets. If you get scratched or bitten, go to the bite clinic to get vaccinated.

"Rabies is preventable among humans and animals," he told reporters after opening the Rabies in Borneo conference here yesterday.

Dr Sim said Sarawak's target was in line with the World Health Organisation's (WHO) global strategic plan to end human deaths

from dog-mediated rabies by 2030. Sarawak has reported 81 human rabies cases since the outbreak began in 2017, resulting in 74 fatalities. Six new cases have been reported this year.

"We seriously want to be rabies-free by 2030 and this is a target set by WHO, so I urge everyone to do their part," he said.

Dr Sim also called for public awareness on the changing pattern of rabies in Sarawak. He said

there were increasing cases of bites or scratches from cats and pets recorded in the state this year.

As of Aug 31, 6,966 or 55% out of 12,587 bite cases involved cat bites or scratches, while 3,451 (43%) were dog bites and 170 (1.3%) involved other animals.

Of the total cases, 8,703 (69%) involved bites or scratches from pets while 3,884 (31%) involved wild or stray animals.

"It is no longer just dogs, it's cats

as well. And it's no longer just stray dogs, it's also your pets.

"The pattern has shifted, and everyone must realise that," he added.

Dr Sim said one way to stay updated was via the rabies app developed by the state Veterinary Services Department and Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation, which provided information on rabies cases and animal vaccination.



# Urgency in fight to contain rabies

Premier: Sarawak averaging 360 animal bite cases weekly, over 55 pct caused by cats



Matthew Umpang  
matthew@mhbarnews.com

KUCHING: Sarawak needs to urgently act to battle rabies as 12,587 animal-bite cases were reported from January to August this year – an average of 360 cases weekly, said the Premier.

Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg said six new human rabies cases have been reported in Sarawak in 2024. He pointed out that 55.34 per cent (6,966 cases) of animal bites were caused by cats, while dogs accounted for 43.3 per cent (5,451 cases) and the remaining 1.35 per cent (170 cases) involved bites from other animals.

A significant 69.14 per cent (8,703 cases) of bites were caused by pets, while 30.86 per cent (3,884 cases) involved wild or stray animals. Highlighting the severity of rabies as a fatal yet preventable disease, Abang Johari stressed the importance of vaccination.

He said the Rabies in Borneo (RiB) 2024 conference will serve as a platform for sharing the latest control and prevention strategies. "We need to work together to educate the public, monitor, and stay one step ahead of this disease. I am however confident that through collective efforts and knowledge-sharing, Sarawak can achieve the goal of becoming rabies-free by 2030," he said in a speech read by Deputy Premier Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kiu Hian at the conference's launch.



Dr Sim (second right) shows reporters the state government's rabies app. He is flanked by Dr Rundi (left) and Dr Adrian.

yesterday. He acknowledged that dogs are the primary carriers of rabies in Sarawak, thus the focus of the state's rabies prevention initiatives include mass dog vaccination, licensing, microchipping, dog population control, awareness campaigns, surveillance, and disease monitoring.

He pointed out the key player in these efforts is the Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET), established by the state government under the Sarawak

Security and Enforcement Unit (UKPS) to prevent rabies from spreading across the 1,032km Sarawak-Kalimantan border.

"IBET has actively monitored the movement of rabid dogs, conducted disease surveillance, and vaccinated 21,860 dogs, achieving 89 per cent herd immunity within the immune belt zone in 2023."

"Overall, 36,900 dogs have been vaccinated across Sarawak by the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak and IBET, moving closer to the

target of 50,000 by year-end," he said.

With rabies cases rising, Abang Johari reminded the public to take precautions and seek medical attention if bitten by an animal.

He urged dog owners to be responsible by ensuring their pets are neutered and vaccinated, as mandated under Section 40 of the Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999 (VPHO), saying non-compliance could result in fines of up to RM1,000.

He also warned dog owners

who let their dogs roam freely could face fines of up to RM2,500 under Section 37 of the VPHO.

"Additionally, dog owners must keep their pets under effective control and obtain licences from local councils, or they may face fines of up to RM4,000 under the Local Authorities (Dog Licensing and Control) by-laws, 2018," he said.

Abang Johari also commended the collaboration of various agencies, including the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak (DVSS); the

We need to work together to educate the public, monitor, and stay one step ahead of this disease. I am however confident that through collective efforts and knowledge-sharing, Sarawak can achieve the goal of becoming rabies-free by 2030.

Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg

Ministry of Public Health, Housing, and Local Government UKPS; Health Department; and Sarawak Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for fighting rabies and protecting the community.

He added the Sarawak government is working with other countries in the region to combat rabies and encouraged all stakeholders to collaborate in controlling and eliminating the disease.

"Through the forum, it is an opportunity for us to come together, learn, and share our knowledge and experiences."

Among those present were Minister of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom and DVSS director Dato Dr Adrian Susin Ambud.

## Health director: Sarawak records 81 human rabies infections since outbreak declared in July 2017

● From Page 1

To date, Sarawak has recorded 81 human rabies infections since the outbreak was declared in July 2017.

Dr Veronica also reminded the public that the incidents of dog and cat bites in Sarawak remained high.

She pointed out that from 2017 until the end of August this year, a total of 57,917 dog bites, 49,693 cat bites/scratches, and 1,646 bites from other animals had been reported.

"From Jan 1 to Aug 31, 2024, a total of 12,587 animal

bite cases were reported, while on average, 360 animal bite cases are reported weekly in Sarawak," she added.

Dr Veronica said of these cases, 6,966 (55.34 per cent) were cat bites/scratches, 5,451 (43.30 per cent) were dog bites, and the remaining 170 (1.35 per cent) involved other animals.

Furthermore, 8,703 cases (69.14 per cent) involved bites or scratches from pets, while 3,884 (30.86 per cent) involved wild/stray animals, she said.

In this regard, Dr Veronica reminded the public not to handle the remains of any dead

pets, including dogs and cats, especially if the cause of death was unknown.

"They should report the incident to the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) or the nearest PBT (local authority) for further action."

Dr Veronica also said the Health Department Sarawak would continue to intensify efforts to control the rabies outbreak among humans, while urging the public to cooperate with all the involved parties and play their part in ensuring that prevention and control measures could be effectively implemented.



## World Rabies Day 2024

# Get your dogs vaccinated, licensed at awareness drive in Kpg Semeba hall

**KUCHING:** In conjunction with World Rabies Day 2024, an anti-rabies vaccination, dog licensing, microchipping, and awareness talk are taking place today (Sept 28) at the multipurpose hall of Kampung Semeba here.

Minister for Food Industry, Commodities and Regional Development Sarawak Datu Sri Dr Stephen Buidi Utom will officiate at the event, themed 'Breaking Rabies Boundaries'.

This programme aims to raise awareness and combat the spread of rabies, which remains a critical public health concern in Sarawak.

Activities today include free rabies vaccinations for dogs, licensing and microchipping educational sessions on rabies prevention, and community engagement initiatives to increase understanding of this deadly disease.

According to Dr Rundi, rabies remains a significant public health threat in Sarawak.

"Since the outbreak began in 2017, we have reported 81 human rabies infections, resulting in a tragic 74 fatalities."

"In 2024 alone, six new cases have emerged, highlighting the urgency of our situation. According to the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH), rabies claims over 59,000 lives globally each year, predominantly in Asia and Africa."

"These statistics serve as a stark reminder of the need for immediate action to protect our communities and loved ones," said Dr Rundi.

Department of Veterinary



Get your dogs vaccinated, licensed during the programme at Kampung Semeba hall.

Services (DVS) Sarawak director, Datu Dr. Adrian Sutin Ambud, added: "One of the most effective measures to combat rabies is through dog vaccination."

"Vaccinating our dogs not only protects them, but also plays a vital role in safeguarding public health."

"Unvaccinated dogs are the primary reservoir for the rabies virus in our state, so ensuring they are vaccinated significantly reduces the risk of transmission to humans."

"As stipulated in the VPHO

1995, rabies vaccination is mandatory. "Failure to vaccinate can result in a fine of up to RM1,000 for dog owners."

Datu Dr. Adrian Sutin Ambud

In Sarawak, a total of 778 animal samples have been tested this year, out of which 110 tested positive for rabies.

Alarmingly, 75 of these cases

(95 per cent) are from Kuching, with 21 cases still concentrated in the Padawan area and 38 cases from Kuching itself.

According to the state Health Department data, from January 1 to August 31, 2024, a total of 12,587 animal bite cases were reported in Sarawak.

On average, 360 animal bite cases are reported weekly. Of these cases, 6,365 (50.34 per cent) are cat bites or scratches, 5,451 (43.30 per cent) were dog bites, and the remaining 170 (1.35 per cent) involved other animals.

Additionally, 8,693 cases (69.34 per cent) involved bites or scratches from pets, while 3,884 cases (30.66 per cent) involved wild or stray animals.

As part of the continued commitment to eradicating rabies, the Rabies in Borneo 2024 (RIB 2024) conference will be held from Sept 30 to Oct 1, 2024, at the Imperial Hotel Kuching.

Organised by Flare Borneo Sdn Bhd and co-organised by the DVS Sarawak, this conference will bring together experts, policymakers, and advocates to discuss strategies and share knowledge on rabies prevention and control across Borneo.

Standard pricing of RM640 per delegate is available until Sept 28, 2024.

Students are encouraged to participate, with a fee of RM200 per student.

All interested parties are invited to join this important conference. Registration is now open, and early sign-up is encouraged to secure participation in this pivotal event.

RIB 2024 is supported by the Ministry of Food Industry, Commodities and Regional Development; Ministry of Public Health, Housing and Local Government Sarawak, and Business Events Sarawak.

RIB 2024 invites relevant agencies, organisations, and stakeholders to actively participate and contribute to the collective effort to eradicate rabies in Sarawak.

For more information and updates, go to [www.rabiesinborneo.com](http://www.rabiesinborneo.com) and follow RIB 2024 on Facebook.

## Home

# Rabies: Changing transmission patterns involve cats, pet dogs — Dr Sim

**KUCHING:** Members of the public need to be aware that rabies transmission patterns in Sarawak are evolving, said Datuk Amar Dr Sim Kui Hian.

The Deputy Premier noted that unlike in previous years, cat bites and scratches are becoming more prevalent, while many dog bites involved pets.

"The public must also be aware of the changing patterns of rabies. It's no longer just dogs; it's cats as well and no longer just street dogs."

"Everyone must play their role in ensuring Sarawak becomes rabies-free by 2030," he told reporters after launching the Rabies in Borneo 2024 Conference here yesterday.

The Public Health, Housing and Local Government Minister opined without a collective

effort, Sarawak's anti-rabies measures would be ineffective.

He urged owners to be vigilant and ensure their pets receive annual rabies vaccinations.

He stressed Sarawak must avoid becoming infamous for failing to control rabies.

"It is important for all to do a concerted effort to be rabies-free by 2030, alongside achieving the goals of the Post Covid-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030."

"For that purpose, this year, SDMC (State Disaster Management Committee) came back and took over the task to combat rabies again. We don't want the whole world to look at Sarawak and say, 'you are the only one because you failed,' he stressed.

He pointed out the World

Health Organisation (WHO) has set 2030 as the target to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies.

Key to the state's efforts is the implementation of technology, such as the rabies app which tracks rabies-positive cases and vaccinations, he said.

Encouraging the public to download the app, he said it provides crucial updates, similar to the sharing of Covid-19 information.

"The digital initiative will help monitor affected areas and guide residents on vaccination locations."

"This will help us track rabies-positive cases and vaccinations," he said.

Dr Sim also highlighted the active role of the Inter-Agency Border Enforcement

Division (IBED) in managing the vaccination of dogs.

On human cases, he stressed the importance of immediate action in the event of an animal bite.

"The Cabinet has specially authorised our members of IBED to vaccinate the dogs. This initiative allows Sarawak to bolster its vaccination efforts despite a shortage of veterinary professionals."

"If anybody's got scratches or dog bites, go to the bite clinics. If you get vaccinated after dog bites, you can be sure of 100 per cent no rabies in your brain."

"It is actually because of a failure to seek timely treatment that leads to dire consequences, as rabies has a 99 per cent fatality rate once symptoms appear," he explained.

# HOW MEXICO ACHIEVED RABIES-FREE STATUS

BY: UNITED AGAINST RABIES 26 APRIL 2022



## SUMMARY

Mexico is a leading example of rabies elimination through a One Health approach, making mass dog and cat vaccination a public health responsibility under the Ministry of Health. In the 1980s Mexico recorded some 600 human rabies cases. By 2019 it was declared free of human rabies by WHO (over 15 years). **Pet vaccination as a public health issue.** In 1990, with guidance from Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Mexico started its first nationwide campaign of mass dog and cat vaccination. The program still has two main strands: free dog and cat vaccination and provision of post-exposure prophylaxis for anyone suspected of a bite from a rabid animal. A One Health approach has guided government efforts, with rabies a priority in health budgets. The Health Ministry has overall responsibility for canine rabies control and prevention in humans and coordinates all work with other federal agencies, state and municipal governments, NGOs and academia. On average around 18 million free vaccine doses are administered annually through the Health Ministry with the help of student and community volunteers, health workers, state and municipal governments and the armed forces, reaching around 80% of dogs and cats. The system for delivering rabies vaccines grew out of cold chain management for human vaccination programs. The free pet vaccinations are purchased by each State Health Services Rabies Program and delivered across all 32 states of Mexico during national vaccination weeks, starting in March, aiming to reach around 80% of animals, with a follow up week in September to vaccinate puppies and kittens. Mass media (radio, TV) is used to promote the vaccination weeks, as well as social media. In 2019 Mexico became the first country in recent years to receive WHO validation for eliminating dog-mediated human rabies as a public health problem. The last human rabies case was reported in 2005 and Mexico is now on the way to being declared free of canine rabies as well, with no canine rabies (variant 1) cases reported since 2016. All states across the country are now required to carry out targeted dog vaccination, surveillance and testing of suspected animals. These steps are augmented by molecular sequencing to identify different antigenic variants of the rabies virus.

## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Dr Veronica Cedillo, head of Mexico's National Rabies Control Program, says that success has come from a mixture of political will, sustained program implementation, application of timely, proven strategies and surveillance, and gradually shifting responsibility and leadership for rabies control from the national to state level. Mexico is still reporting cases of rabies in wildlife. The most recent reported cases were of 2 cats in Yucatan in 2021 that were infected with a wildlife variant, possibly from coatis – a native mammal. Mexico will begin a trial of oral canine rabies vaccination to counter this emerging problem.

## MAINTAINING RABIES-FREE STATUS

To maintain its rabies-free status, Mexico has introduced pet animal travel and movement restrictions. Every dog or cat moving into or out of the country requires an up-to-date vaccination certificate and rabies antibody checks. The role of the state remains critical to sustaining Mexico's canine rabies controls. Mexico still holds national rabies vaccination weeks, and the government maintains a variety of alliances and collaborations with different actors to support canine rabies initiatives.



# Rabies campaign expands in Sarawak

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim Malaysia has expanded its Stop Rabies Campaign 2024 to combat rabies in Sarawak.

Expanding on last year's success, which focused on Serian, this year's campaign will extend to three more districts: Lundu, Bau and Kota Samarahan.

This campaign places a stronger emphasis on educational initiatives among schoolchildren, with the aim to reach more than 300 children and equip them with essential knowledge about rabies.

"Through education, we aim to raise awareness of rabies prevention and management among schoolchildren and the broader community. Our end goal is to foster a more informed and proactive approach to controlling this deadly but preventable disease," said Boehringer Ingelheim Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia head of animal health Dr Kam Kok Yen.

As part of the comprehensive approach to combating rabies, Boehringer Ingelheim has partnered with the Malaysia One Health University

Network to enhance rabies education across the region.

This initiative includes engaging 50 secondary schools in Kuching, Padawan, Lundu, Bau and Kota Samarahan collectively in the "Train the Trainer" programme and the distribution of the Global Alliance for Rabies Control activity booklets to 25 primary schools in these areas.

These educational efforts aim to instil crucial knowledge and awareness about rabies prevention among students, creating a foundation for long-term community awareness and involvement in rabies elimination.

From December 2023 to June this year, Sarawak reported 8,219 animal bite cases from both pet, and stray cats and dogs.

The Sarawak government, through the Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak, has initiated measures, including vaccination drives, surveillance and outreach programmes. The goal is to eliminate rabies and achieve zero human rabies deaths in the state by 2030.

[meerafinst.com.my](https://meerafinst.com.my)



The Stop Rabies Campaign 2024 in Sarawak will be extended to three more districts — Lundu, Bau and Kota Samarahan.

## Padawan records one rabies case this week, says mayor

**KUCHING:** One rabies case involving a pet dog in Kampung Kuap, Padawan near here was recorded this week, said Kuching South mayor Datuk Wee Hong Seng.

In view of this, he reminded the public to remain vigilant and send their dogs for anti-rabies vaccination.

"Not only are pet owners required to send their dogs for rabies vaccination but they also need to apply for licences," he said during his Facebook Live session 'Shall WEE Talk'.

He also noted some quarters had queried why the anti-rabies vaccination only involved dogs and not cats, and said he had brought this issue to the attention of the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Sarawak.

He hoped the department would make the necessary arrangements to meet the community's demand.

"After all, there is also a possibility of cats spreading rabies. Hence, it makes sense for the public to expect the authorities to provide vaccination for cats as well," he said.

Wee said he would loop in the community as soon as he receives DVS Sarawak's feedback.

## 73 areas in S'wak declared rabies-infected since 2017 – Dr Rundi

**SIBU:** The total area in Sarawak declared as rabies infected since 2017 is 73, said Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development Minister Dato Sri Dr Stephen Rundi Utom.

He pointed out that this year, 91 dogs, seven cats and two other animals were positive for rabies out of 572 samples tested.

"Animal rabies cases were

detected in Kuching (51), Padawan (13), Samarahan (8), Bintulu (7), Tebedu (6), Lundu (6), Bau (2), Sibu (2), Lawas (1), Marudi (1), Selangau (1), Siburan (1), and Simunjan (1)," said Dr Rundi in a press statement yesterday on the rabies situation in Sarawak.

Giving further details, he said, as of yesterday, the total

number of dogs vaccinated by Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Sarawak and Immune Belt Enforcement Team (IBET) across Sarawak was 36,567 dogs against the targeted 40,000 heads by year end.

To achieve the goal, he informed that DVS Sarawak together with Sarawak Security and Enforcement Unit (UKPS)

had intensified the anti-rabies vaccination programmes throughout the state.

Dr Rundi also noted that according to State Health Department, Sarawak recorded 15 deaths this year from 17 rabies cases.

"The cumulative total human rabies cases now stands at 72 with 65 deaths, since July 2017."



*SIDANG  
EDITORIAL*





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Akhir kata, kami sekali lagi ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan terima kasih di atas sumbangan tenaga dan khidmat nasihat yang tuan dan puan berikan kepada masyarakat dalam membanteras rabies di Sarawak. Kami juga ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Kementerian Industri Makanan, Komoditi Dan Pembangunan Wilayah (M-FICORD) khususnya dan kepada semua Warga Jabatan Perkhidmatan Veterinar Sarawak di atas kerjasama anda semua.

**SEKIAN, TERIMA KASIH.**



# KENYALANG VET



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