



PRESS RELEASE
MINISTRY OF FOOD INDUSTRY, COMMODITY
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SARAWAK
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COMPULSORY ANTI-RABIES VACCINATION OF DOGS IN SARAWAK

On this day, I declared Kuching Division and Bintulu Division as rabies infected area following the detection animal rabies. 12 dogs were tested positive in Kuching (8), Padawan (1), Bau (1) and Bintulu (2) from 16 sample collected. All dogs tested are free roaming and unvaccinated. Therefore, I would like to remind public to take extra precaution, and go to clinic if bitten by animal without fail.

Today I also signed the anti-rabies vaccination order under section 40 (1) Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999, which require that all dogs within the State shall be submitted to anti-rabies vaccination and annual booster. Dog owner must be responsible to ensure their pet is vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccine. Any owner or person in charge of a dog who fails to comply shall be guilty of an offence up to RM2,500. Dogs that already exposed to rabies which does not carry the proper evidence of vaccination will be put to sleep.

The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) Sarawak together with Immune Belt Enforcement Team, Sarawak Security and Enforcement Unit (UKPS) has intensified the anti-rabies vaccination programs throughout Sarawak. Public can get their free dog anti-rabies vaccination at any Government Veterinary Offices during office hours and mass vaccination which will be announce from time to time at their official DVSSarawak FB account. This year we target to vaccinate up to 50,000 dogs.

According to State Health Department, Sarawak recorded 16 death last year from 18 human rabies cases. The cumulative total human rabies cases now stood at 73, with 66 deaths, since July 2017.

I would like to remind dog owners not to let their dogs roam freely on the streets as they can be fine up to RM5,000 under Section 37 (3), VPHO 1999 or up to RM2,500 under section 37 (4). 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 is compulsory under Local Authorities (Dog Licensing and Control) by-laws, 2018. Dog owner without license is liable to a fine up to RM5,000. Licensed dog with rabies vaccinated will be microchipped for permanent identification. Non breeder dogs are required to be neutered to prevent breeding and to control dog population in the state. The authority will conduct random house to house check for the above compliance starting February 2024.

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YB DATO SRI DR. STEPHEN RUNDI ANAK UTOM
Minister For Food Industry, Commodity And Regional Development, Sarawak