



Gewog: Samtse

Rabies: 25 June 2022*

Rabies is a zoonotic disease (a disease that is transmitted from animals to humans), caused by the rabies virus, of the Lyssavirus genus, within the family Rhabdoviridae. Domestic dogs are the most common reservoir of the virus, with more than 99% of human deaths caused by dog-mediated rabies.

The virus is transmitted in the saliva of rabid animals and generally enters the body via infiltration of virus-laden saliva from a rabid animal into a wound (e.g. scratches), or by direct exposure of mucosal surfaces to saliva from an infected animal (e.g. bites). The virus cannot infiltrate intact skin.

With the exception of Antarctica, rabies is endemic on all continents. Of the tens of thousands of deaths occurring annually due to rabies, 95% of cases are reported in Asia and Africa.

A male, adult stray dog with un-notched ears in Samtse town, Samtse gewog, Samtse dzongkhag tested positive for rabies – tested with rapid Ag test – on 23 June 2022. The dog was suspected to have entered the area from the Indian side of the border. With the dog sterilization mopping campaign having been completed in the area under the Nationwide Dog Population Management and Rabies Control Program (NADPM&RCP), all the dogs in the town area were vaccinated against rabies, thus the risk of further spread of the infection was minimal.

** Reported to the National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang*



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