

**Suspected rabies outbreak at Kamulu sub
location, Njiru District, Nairobi County,
October 2013**

Dr Athman Mwatondo

FELTP/ZDU

Introduction

- ZDU received a report on 10th October 2013 through CDC.
- Report on unprovoked dog bites at Kamulu sub location, Njiru District
- Bites occurred on 9th October 2013.
- A team (MO and a VO) was sent on 11th to ascertain the notification and conduct case search

The objectives of the investigation

- To conduct key informant interviews and initiate active case search.
- To characterize the bite victims by time, place and person and the category of bite wounds
- To determine the management of the dog bites for the victims.
- To sensitive the local leaders and community on rabies.

Key Informant Interviews.

- We interviewed the following people in Njiru District.
- 1. Dr. Munyole -District Veterinary Officer
- 2. Edward Njoroge -Animal Health Assistant
- 3. Mr. Korir -District Public Health Officer
- 4. Miss Daisy Tuitoek -District Disease Surveillance Coordinator
- 5. Mr. Njoroge -Nursing Officer in charge Njiru Health center
- 6. Elizabeth Karanja -Area Chief Kamulu sub-location
- 7. Mr. Ngugi - Public Health Officer, Mama Lucy Kibaki Hospital

Findings 1/2

- Veterinary personnel were the first to receive the information from a village elder
- Response from the veterinary team was prompt
 - Visited the area on 10th October 2013
 - Identified the bite victims and advised on restraining and careful observation of all bitten animals
- Information was not shared with the DPHO and local administration(Area chief)

Findings 2/2

- Three human victims identified and 3 animals all from the same dog
- The dog was reported not to be agitated and was owned
- Wounds not washed with soap and water.
- All three humans had received anti-rabies vaccine on the same day
- Anti-rabies vaccine only available at private facilities. Kshs 1100/dose
- No bite cases reported at the nearest public health facilities

Human bites

	Age	Sex	Occupation	Marital status	Date of bite	Site of bite	Category of bite wound	Treatment
V1	35	F	Casual worker	married	9 th October	Both legs and arms	Category III	Wounds dressed Vaccination RIG(Day 7)
V2	22	F	student	single	9 th October	Right forearm	Category III	Wounds dressed Vaccination RIG(Day 7)
V3	36	F	Casual worker	married	9 th October	Left leg below knee	Category III	Wounds dressed Vaccination

V1



V2



Livestock bites

- Two young goats killed and one she-goat under observation
- Two dogs were also bitten and were under restraint
- On 10th October 2013 a private vet (AHA) vaccinated the goat and the two dogs
- Owners were advised to restrain the dogs for 10 days

Follow up Visit

- A follow visit was made on 21st October 2013.
- This follow up visit was to find out;
 - Whereabouts of the suspected rabid dog
 - Compliance or adherence to PEP
 - Any suspicious signs or symptoms that had developed among the bitten humans and animals.
- To continue with sensitization

Findings of the follow up

- All three victims were adherent to the anti-rabies vaccine schedule
- No new cases of dog bites had been reported in the area
- No suspicious signs or symptoms related to rabies had developed
- The suspect rabid dog was still at large.
- The community was well sensitized of the event after it was announced in the local churches.

Conclusion

- We confirmed the occurrence of suspected rabid dog bites in Kamulu area, affecting both livestock and human
- All bites were reportedly from the same dog
- Anti-rabies vaccine was given appropriately
- Wound care suboptimal;
 - Not washed with soap and water
 - Fully dressed.
- Public health facilities not stocked with anti-rabies vaccine or RIG
- The One health approach uncoordinated

Recommendations

- Further sensitize the residents of Kamulu and neighboring zones
- Dog vaccination in the area. Its mating season and rabies likely to spread fast
- Strengthen one health approach