

Why Vaccination Matters?

1. Protecting Pets:

Vaccinating our pets, including dogs and cats, is the most effective way to prevent them from contracting rabies. Vaccination not only keeps them safe but also ensures the safety of our families and communities.

2. Preventing Transmission:

Vaccinating pets breaks the cycle of transmission. When dogs and cats are vaccinated, they act as a barrier against the spread of rabies to humans.

3. Community Health:

By vaccinating our pets, we contribute to public health and safety. Preventing rabies in animals helps reduce the risk of human exposure to the virus.

4. Cost-Effective:

Vaccinating pets is not only a responsible choice but also a cost-effective one. The cost of vaccinating a pet against rabies is significantly lower than the medical expenses associated with treating a human who has been exposed to the virus.

5. Compassionate Approach:

Choosing vaccination over killing aligns with our values for all living beings. It's a responsible way to address the issue without causing unnecessary harm.

6. Safe Travels:

During the relocation of your pet, one of the main requirements is a rabies vaccine. If you don't have a certificate, your pet will not be able to fly.



How can I help?

Joining the Rabies Free Cambodia fight against rabies, one person can make a difference. As a concerned individual, there are several impactful ways you can contribute to the fight against this preventable disease and create a safer society for all.

1. Spread Awareness:

Education is key. Share information about rabies through social media, community workshops, and discussions.

2. Vaccinate Your Pets:

If you have pets, make sure they are up-to-date with their rabies vaccinations.

3. Advocate for Responsible Pet Ownership:

Encourage others to spay/neuter their pets, provide proper care, and keep them indoors or supervised to reduce interactions with potentially infected animals.

4. Support Vaccination Campaigns and community:

Volunteer or contribute to organizations conducting rabies vaccination campaigns in your area. These efforts play a crucial role in controlling the disease's spread. You can also become a leader to vaccinate community and stray animals in your area. Contact Animal Mama for more details.

5. Report Stray Animals:

If you come across stray animals, especially dogs, report them to local animal control or relevant authorities. Timely action can prevent potential rabies exposure.

6. Encourage Veterinary Care:

Support initiatives that provide accessible veterinary care, especially in areas where resources are limited. Regular veterinary check-ups can detect and prevent potential rabies cases.

7. Be a Role Model:

Demonstrate responsible pet ownership, empathy towards animals, and a commitment to rabies prevention. Your actions can inspire others to do the same.

Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to the larger goal of a rabies-free society. By coming together, we can make a significant impact in reducing the burden of this disease on pets, people, and communities.

Animal Mama



Scan

Rabies



Your questions and our answers.

Full information about the disease and treatment.

Animal Mama 2023

What Is Rabies?

Rabies is a serious disease that affects the nervous system of mammals. It is caused by a virus which invades the central nervous system and disrupts its working.

How does rabies spread?

The rabies virus is transmitted in the saliva of infected mammals. Most of the time, people get infected after being bitten by an infected animal. But is the bite the only way to transmit the disease? No! Any contact with the saliva of an infected animal (even a dead one) can lead to the infection if a person has a cut on the skin or if saliva gets into their nose, mouth, or eyes.

How long does it take for rabies to spread and show the signs?

The incubation period of rabies varies more than with other infections. Usually, it takes from 5 days for humans, and it also depends on the location of the bite. The closer bite to the head – the faster it is.

! Rabies is 100% Fatal but 100% preventable.

What are the symptoms of rabies?

The virus attacks the nervous system. The first symptoms of rabies include lethargy, fever, vomiting, and anorexia. Signs progress within days to cerebral dysfunction, cranial nerve dysfunction, ataxia, weakness, paralysis, seizures, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, abnormal behaviour, aggression, and/or self-mutilation. Animals are afraid of light and water.

For humans the symptoms are almost the same: they are similar to a flu-like illness – fever, headache, and general discomfort. Within days, the disease can progress to symptoms such as anxiety, confusion, agitation, abnormal behaviour, delirium, and hallucinations.

Once symptoms appear, rabies is fatal. That is why every person, who gets bitten, scratched or exposed to saliva should seek immediate help and post-exposure treatment.

Scientists have shown that once 70% of dogs are vaccinated, rabies can be successfully controlled in an area and human deaths can be prevented.

Rabies in Cambodia

Rabies is an extremely painful and deadly disease. Sadly, but it occurs in more than 150 countries and Cambodia is one of them. Each year rabies kills more than 60,000 people around the world, mostly in Asia and Africa.

The official numbers in Cambodia:

Approximately 800 people die each year and more than 600,000 bites by dogs. How many stray dogs are there in Cambodia? Around 5,5 million stray dogs (Human population of Phnom Penh for comparison: 2.282 million).

What animals usually get infected with rabies?

Stray animals accounted for around 80% of reported cases in Cambodia. Dogs are the most frequently reported species. Most of these dogs are NOT vaccinated.

Basically, any mammal can be rabid: dogs, cats, bats, rats, cattle, and humans.

Population control also matters.

Simple desexing can prevent the spread of the disease and help authorities to control the population of stray animals.

What should I do if I see a stray animal?

If you see a stray dog or cat, approaching you, here are several tips for you:

- 1) Do not approach it back
- 2) Don't try to pet it
- 3) Contact animal control if you can and/or your local vet or animal agency
- 4) Isolate the animal from other pets or humans
- 5) Avoid contact



What should I do if I've been bitten?

If you've been scratched or bitten by any animal, here is what you need to do:

- 1) Calm down. Stress will not help you.
- 2) Clean the area immediately with soap and water for at least 5 minutes.
- 3) Do not apply any natural remedies such as chilli powder, plant juices, or anything caustic and do not cover the wound with a bandage or plaster.
- 4) Seek professional help as soon as possible.
- 5) Contact a veterinarian hospital or authority for catching an animal.
- 6) Contact the local health department for getting the post-exposure vaccine

Prevention = life

Yes, rabies is fatal, but it is also a 100% preventable disease. Vaccinate your animals against rabies as directed. You should never approach unknown animals, domestic or wild. Don't touch dead animals as well, teach your children the same.

When we say you can prevent rabies, we mean it. Simple vaccination will save your life and the life of your pet. Massive culling of stray animals is not the solution; it's a heartbreaking and ineffective response that fails to address the root cause of the problem. Instead, we advocate for a humane approach that emphasizes the importance of vaccination.



Vaccination

Vaccine as a life-savior

Here is some basic math for you:

The price of a rabies vaccine for a person varies in Cambodia from 15\$ to 35\$ for one shot. We do not include the price for the road if you live in a province, where no rabies centres exist.

The vaccination of your pet is not only cheaper (7\$-10\$) but also more accessible and prevents the spread of rabies. One vaccinated pet saves not only you and your family members but also the neighbourhood animals and humans.