

Country Updates

Members' updates on follow-up actions from 3rd SA-RABNET and other recent actions/progress on rabies diagnosis and surveillance

4th South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) Meeting

29 October 2025, 3 PM Japan time (Zoom)

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Month (s)	Species	No of brain sampled, tested	Type of tests	No of positives	Remarks
April – October 2025	Dogs	724	LFA – lateral flow assay DFA – direct fluorescent antibody assays PCR etc.	517	
	Cats	117		20	
	Cattle & Buffalo	43		37	
	Goat	2		1	
	Horse	1		1	
	Fox	2		2	
	Jackal	5		3	
	Jungle cat	2		0	
	Tiger	1		0	
	Mongoose	2		1	
	Sambhar Deer	4		2	
	Monkey	3		0	
	Palm Civet, Hyena, Poultry	2 each		0	
	Indian Gaur	1		0	
Total		913		584	

1. Did your country introduce any new brain sampling techniques in animals since March 2025 (if Yes, please provide details)?

- No

2. Did your country introduce any new rabies diagnostic techniques since March 2025 (if Yes, please provide details)?

- No

3. Did your country set up rabies diagnostic facilities in the field such as in districts/sub-districts since March 2025 (if Yes, please provide details)?

- No

4. Did your country refer any animal brain samples outside your country for rabies diagnosis since March 2025 (if Yes, please provide details)?

- No

If your answer is 'yes' to the following Questions, please share details

- Did you do any testing of brain samples from dogs that died of diseases other than rabies or died due to accidents?

Yes (In COVAS, Udgir, MAFSU and in HP for Brain samples collected for BSE)

- Did you train other Veterinarians on brain sample collection?

KVAFSU-CVA RDL has scheduled a National level training in December, 2025,

Maharashtra: COVAS, Udgir, MAFSU - Trained 102 LDOs from Field in Maharashtra under ASCAD

Himachal Pradesh: 26.08.2025 - field veterinarians (20) of HP posted at Veterinary Polyclinics

TamilNadu: ABT-TANUVAS - in Pre-Conference workshop during APCRICON 2025

- Did the Veterinarians/laboratories in the field submitted rabies suspected brain samples to national laboratory for confirmation?

Himachal Pradesh - to KVAFSU-CVA RDL; ICAR-NRCE, Hissar, Haryana; CRI, Kasauli, HP

Assam - Animal Rabies Diagnosis Laboratory at College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati, Assam

MVC, MAFSU and ABT, TANUVAS (ISO 17025) – NCDC recognized labs for Animal rabies testing

If your answer is 'yes' to the following Questions, please share details

- Did you test any wild animals for rabies?

KVAFSU-CVA RDL: Fox from Raichur in Karnataka (Pos)

Maharashtra: COVAS, Udgir, MAFSU – Fox (pos)

Assam: 1 Jackal (pos) and 2 Jungle cats (neg)

TamilNadu: ABT-TANUVAS- Indian Gaur & Monkey

Kerala: Jackal (2/4), Tiger (0/1), Mongoose (1/2), Sambhar deer (2/4), Palm Civet (0/2),
Monkey (0/2), Hyena (0/2)

- Did you share information about positive animal rabies results with human health sector in your country?

KVAFSU-CVA RDL: DAHD, GOI; NCDC, GOI ;State Health & Family welfare department

TamilNadu: ABT-TANUVAS – NCDC, GOI and ICMR, New Delhi

Maharashtra & Karnataka: Local Municipal Council,

- Did you do any post-vaccination monitoring using ELISA and/or other tests?

ELISA by MVC, MAFSU for international Travel purposes

FAVN by AT-TANUVAS for International Travel purposes

RFFIT by KVAFSU-CVA RDL for both International movement and post vaccination monitoring

samples are received from by CUPA and Society for wildlife conservation, Education & Research (Wild-CER) yet to be tested

- Do you have any specific support needed from the WOAHP Reference Laboratory in India for rabies diagnosis and surveillance?

MVC, MAFSU asked for training in RFFIT and infrastructure support for the same

HP – Request for dRIT kits, Field level testing is by LFA test, request for establishing a Rabies diagnostic laboratory at Himachal other than CRI kasauli or strengthen CRI Kasauli for the same.

- Do you have any ongoing or upcoming projects to support rabies diagnosis and surveillance? If yes, please explain a bit.

KVAFSU-CVA RDL: Development of indigenous recombinant adenovirus vector-based oral rabies vaccine intended for free-roaming dogs (ICMR-NOHM-Project on ORV)

Maharashtra: MVC, MAFSU: M.V.Sc (Postgraduate Research) - Molecular Characterisation of Phosphoprotein (P) and Glycoprotein (G) genes of Rabies virus

COVAS, Udgir, MAFSU - RGSTC Mumbai - Development of IgY-based Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG) in Poultry Layer Birds for Rabies dog bite site virus neutralization - Topical Application in Dog Bite Wound Management

Assam - Interim support received from Mission Rabies

TANUVAS - Genetic characterization and vaccine delivery system for rabies in animals, funded by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), GOI.

It involves characterization of the virus strain circulating in India through whole genome sequencing and understanding the efficacy of the vaccine. It also includes achieving mass vaccination in dogs through fabricated microneedle.

- Ultra-Sensitive and Highly Specific Padlock Probe assay for Point-of-Care Ante Mortem Rabies Diagnosis, In collaboration with IIT Madras - funded by DBT, GOI

It involves detection of rabies virus in ante mortem samples using padlock probe based RCA.

- Dr. Rajesh R. Pharande, Mumbai Veterinary College, Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Dr. Ashok V. Bhosale, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, MAFSU, Udgir, Latur, Maharashtra
- Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Dr. Jyoti B Dutta, College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati, Assam
- Dr. Aparna, S., State Institute for Animal Diseases, Palode, Kerala
- Dr. P. Raja, Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (TANUVAS), Tamil Nadu
- Dr. Bhanu Rekha, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER), Puducherry
- Dr. Nagappa, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hassan, Karnataka

Thank you

