

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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Designation : Veterinary Research Officer

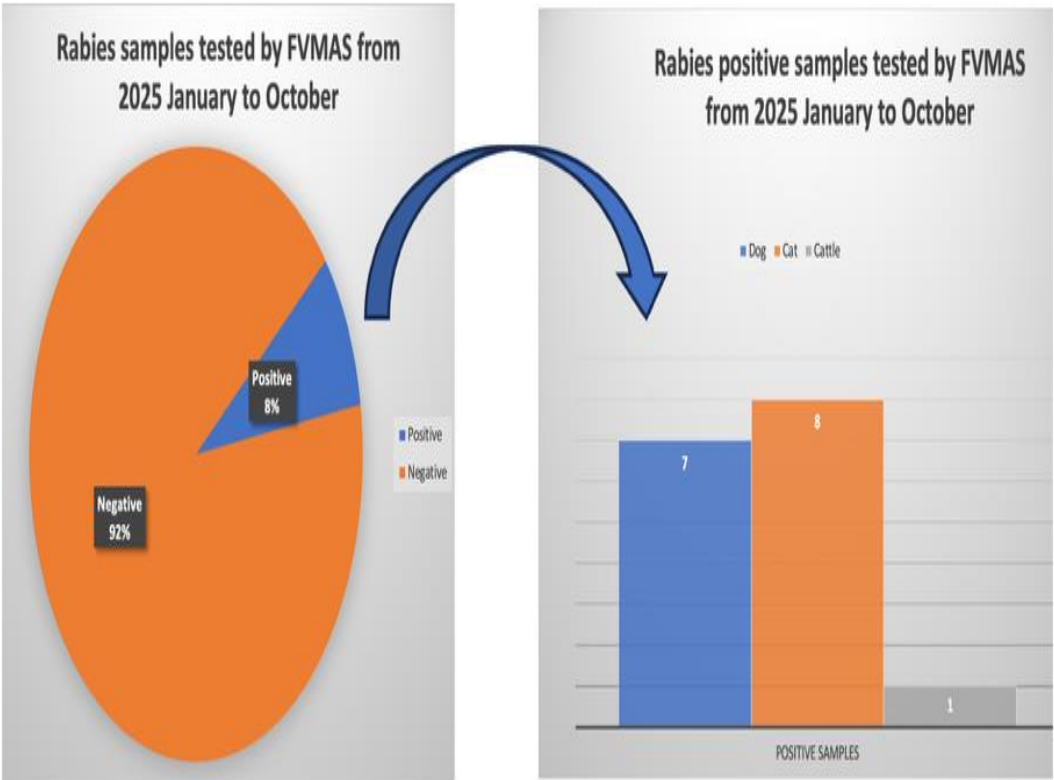
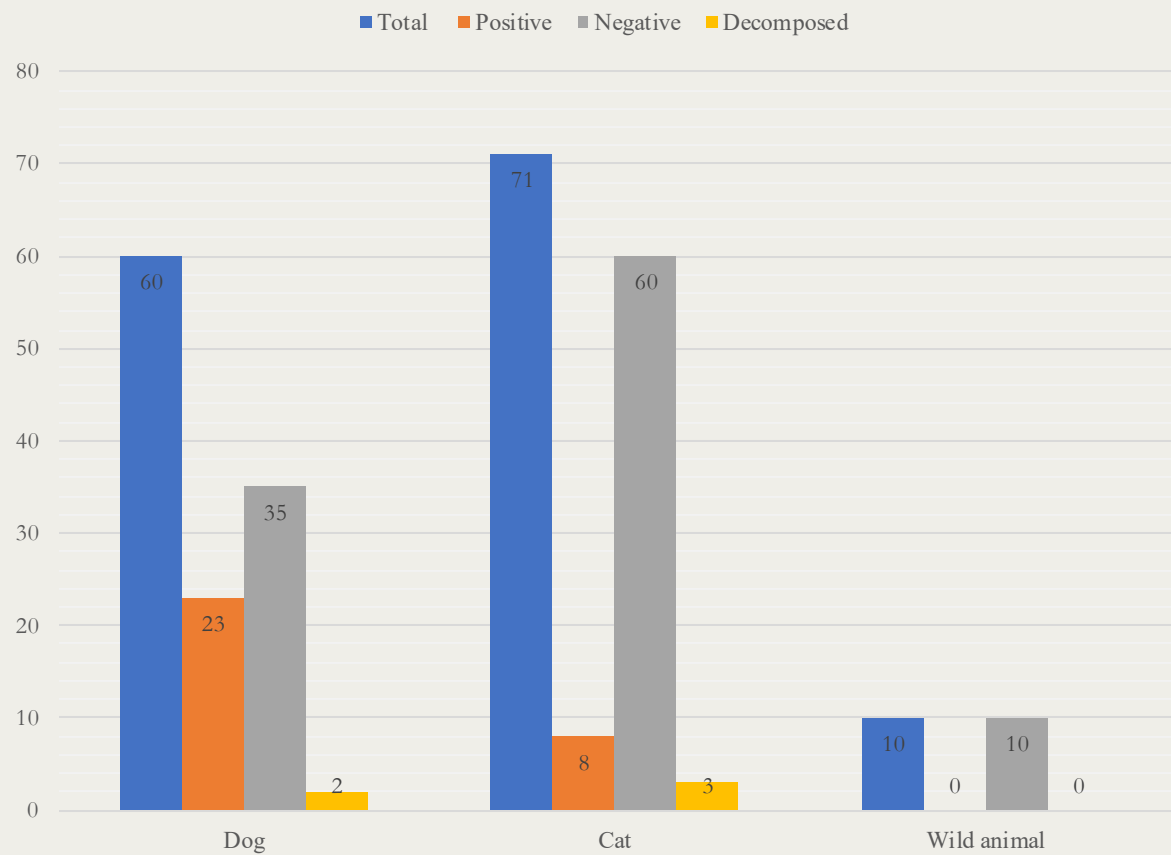
Diagnostic activities since March 2025

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Please list major diagnostic works undertaken since March 2025

Month (s)	Species	No of brain sampled, tested	Type of tests	No of positives	Remarks
January to October 2025	E.g. Dogs, cats, cattle	194	DFA – direct fluorescent antibody assays	Canine -07 , Feline 08, Bovine 01	FVMAS
January to February	Dog (60), Cat (71), Wild Animal (10)	141	DFA – direct fluorescent antibody assays	Canine -23, Feline 08, Wild Animal -0	MRI and Karapitiya Hospital
Total		335		47	

Rabies samples tested by MRI and Karapitiya Hospital from 2025 January to February



1. NEW BRAIN SAMPLING TECHNIQUES IN ANIMALS

- 06 Veterinary Investigation officers train for Occipital Foramen Route for collecting

2. NEW RABIES DIAGNOSTIC TECHNIQUES

Available Diagnostic Facilities with in the country

Medical Research Institute –

- Direct smear test for Negri bodies & Direct fluorescent antibody test (FAT) done routinely
- Immunochromatography strip test, RT-PCR & Mouse inoculation test (MIT) available

Karapitiya Teaching Hospital –

- Direct fluorescent antibody test (FAT) done routinely

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

- Direct fluorescent antibody test (FAT) done routinely

New Diagnostic facilities adopted to the field

Lateral flow assays (LFAs) -06 Veterinary Investigation officers trained for this diagnostic method in the field.

3. RABIES DIAGNOSTIC FACILITIES IN THE FIELD

05 veterinary investigation centres will be developed for rabies diagnosis

4. 2025, Samples were not submitted to the reference laboratory for diagnosis purpose

Please list major rabies surveillance activities undertaken since March 2025

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- The brain samples from dogs that died of diseases other than rabies or died due to accidents are not currently request testing for rabies
- More than 20 Veterinarians are trained on brain sample collection.
- The Veterinarians, laboratories in the field submitted rabies suspected brain samples to national laboratory for confirmation.
- In 2025 Indian otter, squirrels, Rats, Rock squirrel and gray mongoose were tested for Rabies
- Positive animal rabies results were shared with human health sector in Sri Lanka
- Medical Research Institute currently doing post-vaccination monitoring using ELISA and Department of Animal Production and Health will contributed to the surveillance on Next year

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

- Disease Diagnosis facilities
- Training for work force
- Technical support to develop diagnostic capacity of Laboratories
- Proficiency testing.

Ongoing or upcoming projects to support rabies diagnosis and surveillance? If yes, please explain a bit.