

Afghanistan

5th South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) Meeting

Name of presenter
Dr. Hamidullah Tawfiq



Diagnostic activities since October 2025

Please list major diagnostic works undertaken since October 2025

Month (s)	Species	No of brain sampled, tested	Type of tests	No of positives	Remarks
October 2025 April 2026	Dogs, cattle,	16 samples	RP and PCR etc.	All 16 samples positive	
Total	16 samples of brain tested in CVDRL				

Diagnostic activities since **October 2025**

3

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

-No

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

No

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

- No only discussed.

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

The major surveillance is done 138 rabies suspected from 16 province.

1-Badakhshan 10 case 2-Badghis 7 case 3-Farah 2 case 4-Ghazni 4 case 5-Hirat 1 case 6-Kunar 1
7-Kabul 2 case 8-Kundus 8 case 9-Laghman 5 case 10-logar 18 case 11-Nangarhar 9 case 12-Paktia
20 case 13-panjshir 1 case 14-Sari pul 5 case 15-Takhar 35 case 16-Wardak 10 case

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

- Did you train Veterinarians on brain sample collection? Yes we train our provincial laboratory staff for how to collect brain samples.
- Did the laboratories in the field submit rabies suspected brain samples to national laboratory for confirmation? Yes provincial laboratory staff submit suspected rabies sample to CVDRL
- Did you test any wild animals for rabies? Only dog, not all
- Did you share information about positive animal rabies results with human health sector in your country? Yes

- Do you have any specific support needed from the WOAHA Reference Laboratory in India for rabies diagnosis and surveillance?
- 1-We need training on rabies testing samples,
- 2-We need reagents and kits for rabies diagnosis,
- 3-We need training on surveillance,
- 4-We need PT samples from both laboratory,
- 5-We need reagents and training for saliva and swab samples from live animal
- 6- We need more professional training for advanced test of rabies suspected samples,
- 7- We have Fluorescent Microscope for the use of (fuji,saffin)
- Do you have any ongoing or upcoming projects to support rabies diagnosis and surveillance? If yes, please explain a bit. No

Bangladesh

5th South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) Meeting

13 May 2026, 3 PM Japan time (Virtual)

Md. Golam Azam Chowdhury, DVM, Ph.D.
Principal Scientific Officer (PSO)
Central Disease Investigation Laboratory (CDIL)
Department of Livestock Services (DLS)
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL)
48 kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh
E-mail: psocdil@gmail.com

Diagnostic activities since October 2025

Month (s)	Species	No of brain sampled, tested	Type of tests	No of positives	Remarks
October 2025	Human-2	Saliva sample-2	PCR and qRT-PCR	0	
November 2025	Human-5 Zebra-1 Cat-1	Saliva sample-5 Brain sample-2	PCR and qRT-PCR	Cat-1 (Lab ID 2419)	Dead cat from Sreenagar, Munshiganj, Dhaka
December 2025	Human-4 Cow-2 Goat-1 Cat-1	Saliva sample-5 Brain sample-3	PCR and qRT-PCR	0	
January 2026	Dog-3 Cat-2	Brain sample-5	PCR and qRT-PCR	0	
February 2026	Human-1	Saliva sample-1	PCR and qRT-PCR	0	
March 2026	Human-1 Cat-1	Saliva sample-1 Brain sample-1	PCR and qRT-PCR	0	
April 2026	Human-2 Dog-1	Saliva sample-2 Brain sample-3	PCR and qRT-PCR	Dog-1 (Lab ID 2963)	Dog head from Bagerhat Sador, Khulna
Total	28	28		2	

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

- ***** Please write your answer here *****

No

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

-***** Please write your answer here *****

No

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

- ***** Please write your answer here *****

- No

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

- ***** Please write your answer here *****

- No

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

Yes.

1. For Lab ID 2704 Head, Liver, Spleen, Lung and Kidney sample was received from Dr.Kamrun Nahar Koli, Club road,Kaunia,Barisal. That was > Positive for Canine distemper (CD) in PCR > Negative for AIV and Rabies.
2. For Lab ID 2685 Head of Cat was received from Dr. Solaiman Hossain, Gulshan-02, Dhaka. That was >Positive for H5 AIV on qRT-PCR > Negative for Rabies in PCR and qRT-PCR

- Did you train Veterinarians on brain sample collection?

Training of veterinarians on brain sample collection was not conducted in an organized manner. However, intern students visited the laboratory according to their schedules, and CDIL provided guidance whenever such samples were received on those days..

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

Yes. Not only from the laboratories in the field but also from government district & subdistrict veterinary hospitals and private practitioner.

- Did you test any wild animals for rabies?

Yes. Actually, it was zoo animal (Zebra). Lab ID 2372

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

No

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

Hands-on training support is needed from the World Organization for Animal Health Reference Laboratory in India for rabies diagnosis and surveillance, as the previous laboratory personnel have been transferred and new staff members have joined the laboratory

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

No ongoing project. Upcoming =Pandemic and One Health Project????

Bhutan

5th South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) Meeting

13 May 2026, 3 PM Japan time (Virtual)

Tshering Choden
National Centre for Animal Health

Please list major diagnostic works undertaken since **October 2025**

Month (s)	Species	No of brain sampled, tested	Type of tests	No of positives	Remarks
October 2025 – April 2026	Canine	14	11	3	
	Bovine	5	5	0	
	Caprine	1	1	0	
Total		20	17	3	

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

***** Please write your answer here *****

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

***** Please write your answer here *****

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

Yes Gelephu Regional Veterinary Hospital and Epidemiology Centre

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

- ***** Please write your answer here *****

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?
- Natural Death for PT NC
- Did you train Veterinarians on brain sample collection?
- Did the laboratories in the field submit rabies suspected brain samples to national laboratory for confirmation?
- Yes, NCAH is confirmatory Lab
- Did you test any wild animals for rabies?
- Did you share information about positive animal rabies results with human health sector in your country?
- Yes, in all Positive cases.

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

PT Scheme

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

India

5th South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) Meeting

13 May 2026, 3 PM Japan time (Virtual)

Name of presenter: **Dr. Sharada, R.**

Designation/affiliation: **Professor & Quality Manager, KVAFSU-CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, WOAHA Reference Laboratory for Rabies, Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bengaluru, INDIA.**

Diagnostic activities since October 2025

Month (s)	Species	No of brain sampled, tested	Type of tests	No of positives	Remarks
April – October 2025	Dogs	1060	LFA – lateral flow assay DFA – direct fluorescent antibody assays PCR etc.	612	
	Cats	107		26	
	Cattle & Buffalo - Cow	36		34	
	Sheep	1		0	
	Goat	7		4	
	Horse	3		2	
	Sloth Bear	2		2	
	Wolf	1		0	
	Bat	2		0	
	Rat	2		0	
	Jackal	3		1	
	Civet	2		1	
	Golden langur, Indian Gaur, Elephant, squirrel, Rabbit, Jungle cat	1 each		0	
	Human	6		4	Tamil Nadu
Total		1238		686	

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

- No -

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

- No-

4. Did your country refer any animal brain samples outside your country for rabies diagnosis since October 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?

Assam - Dog carcasses sourced from JBF (NGO) suspected for CD - negative for rabies.

- Did you train Veterinarians on brain sample collection?
- ✓ National Hands-on Training Program on "Brain Sampling and Diagnosis of Rabies" for 12 participants on 8-11th December 2025
- ✓ National Level Hands-on Training Program on "WOAH National Training of Trainers on Animal Rabies" from 07th – 13th February, 2026 at Veterinary Investigation Centres (VICs) Kandy, SriLanka for 25 participants
- ✓ Training Program on "Brain Sampling and Diagnosis of Rabies" Organised by VPH&E, COVS, LUVAS, Hissar on 27th March 2026

Assam, Tamil Nadu – trainings for individual Veterinarians on Brain sample collection

MVC, MAFSU – trained 40 LDOs in Maharashtra

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

Assam - One equine & two feline samples submitted for PCR

Maharashtra

- Did you test any wild animals for rabies?
 - ✓ KVAFSU-CVA RDL - Two sloth bear samples from Bannerghatta were positive for Rabies
 - ✓ Assam - Jackal, golden langur, civet and rats were tested, all were negative
 - ✓ TamilNadu – Indian Gaur (Neg), Golden Jackal (Neg) and Palm Civet (Pos)
 - ✓ Maharashtra – Golden Jackal (Pos)
 - ✓ Kerala – Elephant (Neg), Jungle cat (Neg)

- 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 – ICMR, New Delhi
 - ✓ Maharashtra & Karnataka: Local Municipal Council,
 - ✓ Kerala – State health department
- Do you have any specific support needed from the WOAHP Reference Laboratory in India for rabies diagnosis and surveillance?

Assam - Training of laboratory manpower is needed for molecular diagnosis and recent methodologies

Maharashtra – MVC, MAFSU asked for training in RFFIT and infrastructure support 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

- ✓ “National One Health Program for prevention and control of zoonotic diseases” funded by the NCDC, Government of India
- ✓ Development of indigenous recombinant adenovirus vector-based oral rabies vaccine intended for free-roaming dogs funded by ICMR-NOHM, Govt. of India
- ✓ “Validation of Quantitative indirect ELISA for estimation of anti rabies vaccinal antibodies in canines” funded by DBt, Govt. of India (Amount not yet released)

Assam

Collaboration & partial support from Mission Rabies and ASCAD, Govt. of India

Tamil Nadu:

- ✓ An ongoing DBT scheme on “Ultra-sensitive and highly specific padlock probe assay for point-of-care antemortem rabies diagnosis” that uses a colorimetric assay based on padlock probe against rabies N and L gene to effectively detect anti mortem samples
- ✓ ICMR supported project on “Genetic Characterization and Vaccine delivery system for rabies in animals”.
- ✓ Reliance Life sciences sponsored project on “Mice neutralization experiments using the recombinant mAbs from Reliance Life Sciences (RLS) against the field isolates of Rabies virus” to screen the recombinant monoclonal antibody on the rabies field isolates”

Maharashtra (COVAS, MAFSU): PG Research

- ✓ Quantitative Proteomics Based Characterization Of Novel markers In Rabies Virus Infected Animals
- ✓ Expression of Recombinant Glycoprotein of Rabies Virus And its Neutralization By Ig-Y Antibodies

MVC, MAFSU: M.V.Sc (Postgraduate Research) –

Molecular Characterization of Phosphoprotein (P) and Glycoprotein (G) genes of Rabies virus

- Dr. Jyoti B Dutta, College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati, Assam
- Dr. Nagappa, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hassan, Karnataka
- Dr. P. Raja, Tamil Nadu University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (TANUVAS), Tamil Nadu
- Dr. Ashok V. Bhosale, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, MAFSU, Udgir, Latur, Maharashtra
- Dr. Rajesh R. Pharande, Mumbai Veterinary College, Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University (MAFSU), Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Dr. Aparna, S., State Institute for Animal Diseases, Palode, Kerala

Thank you



Nepal

5th South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) Meeting

13 May 2026

Dr. Anil Regmi
Veterinary Officer
Central Veterinary Laboratory, Nepal

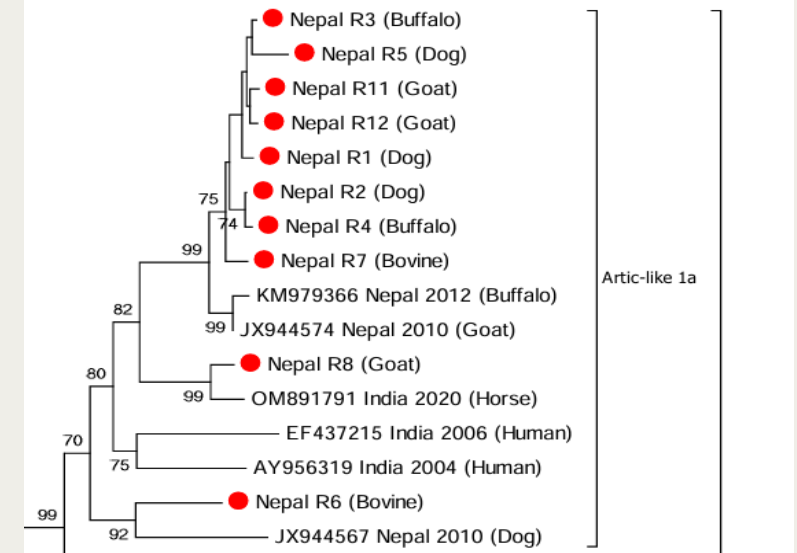
- Rabies - Endemic in Nepal.
- Notifiable disease in Animal Health and Public health sector
- Rabies Control Strategy sent from MoALD to MOHP. MOHP in the final process to submit to the council of ministers.
- Department of Livestock Services is responsible for rabies control in animals (co-ordination with three tiers of government).

Genetic Characterization

Arctic-like lineage 1; **2003**

An Indian subcontinent clade and two different Arctic-like subclades within the Arctic-related clade (AL1, AL3); **2013**

Only Arctic-related clade (Arctic like 1a); **2023**



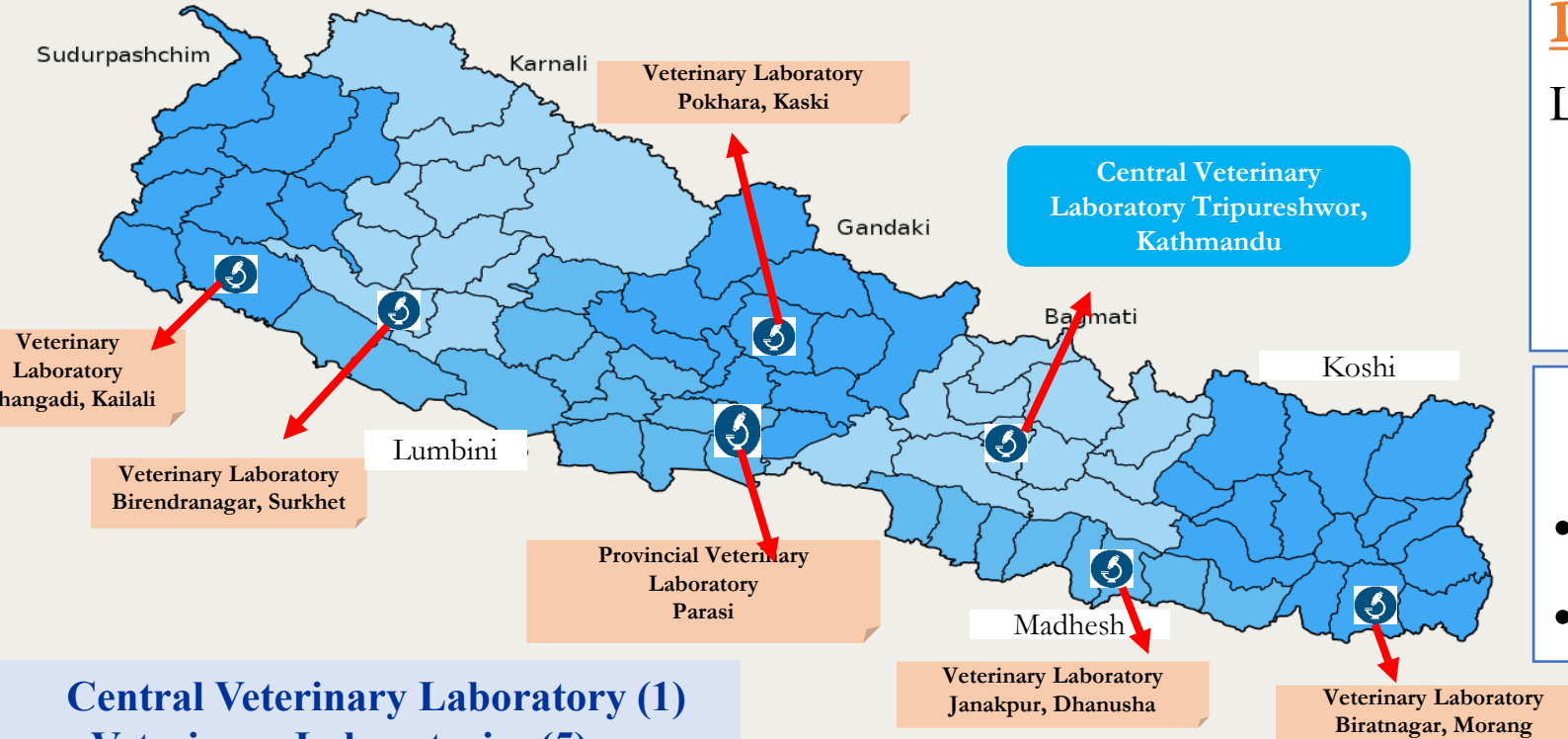
Diagnostic Facilities

Diagnostic Algorithm (CVL)

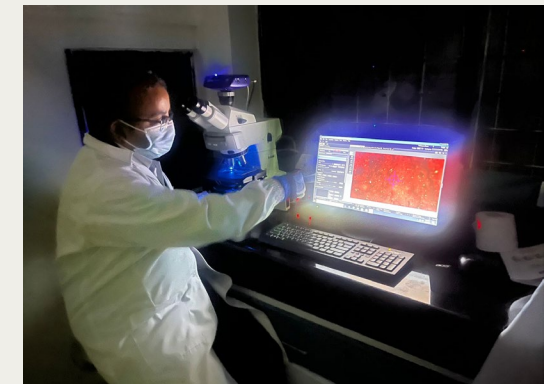
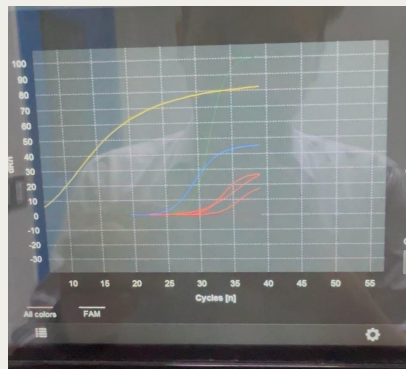
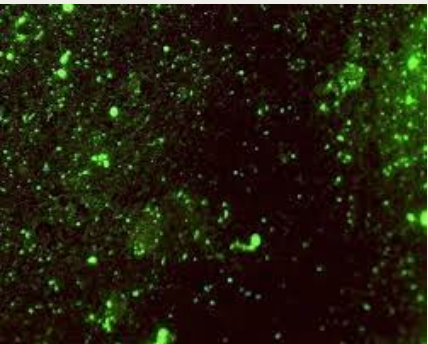
LFA (Screening) → FAT (Confirmation)
↓
RT-PCR (if LFA and FAT Result differ)

Diagnostic facilities setup in Sub-national Level

- FAT and PCR in VL Dhangadi
- FAT facilities in VL Pokhara.



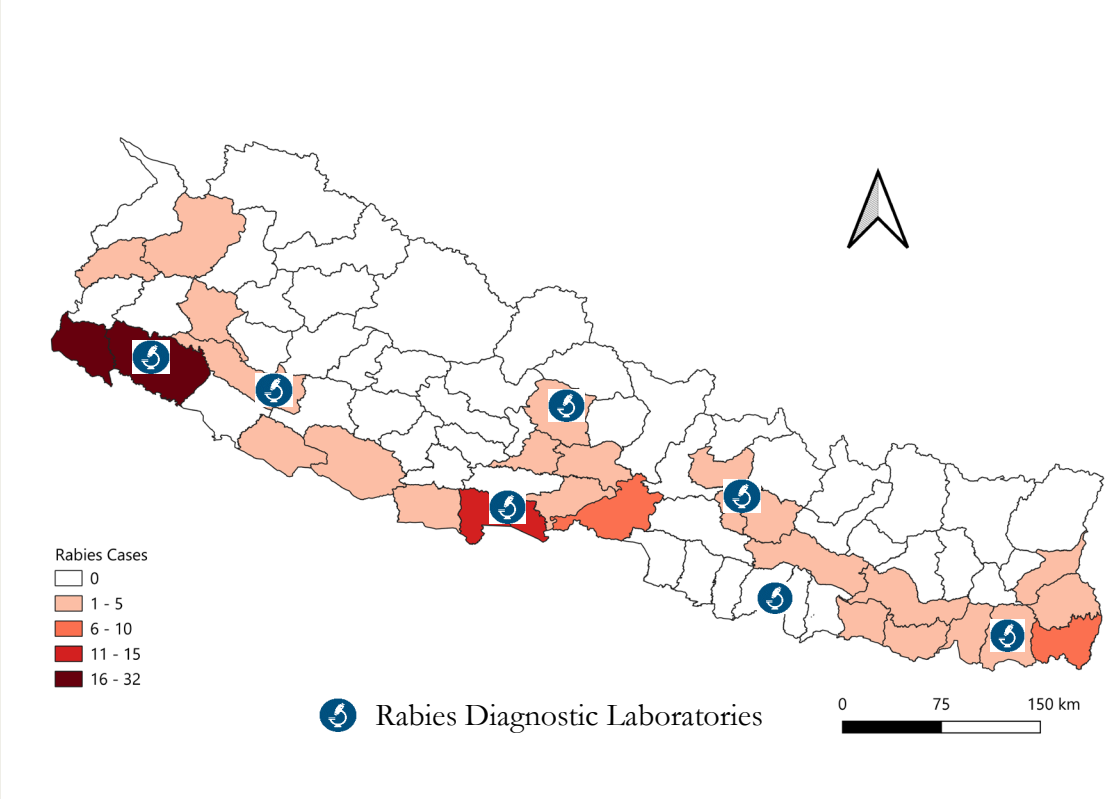
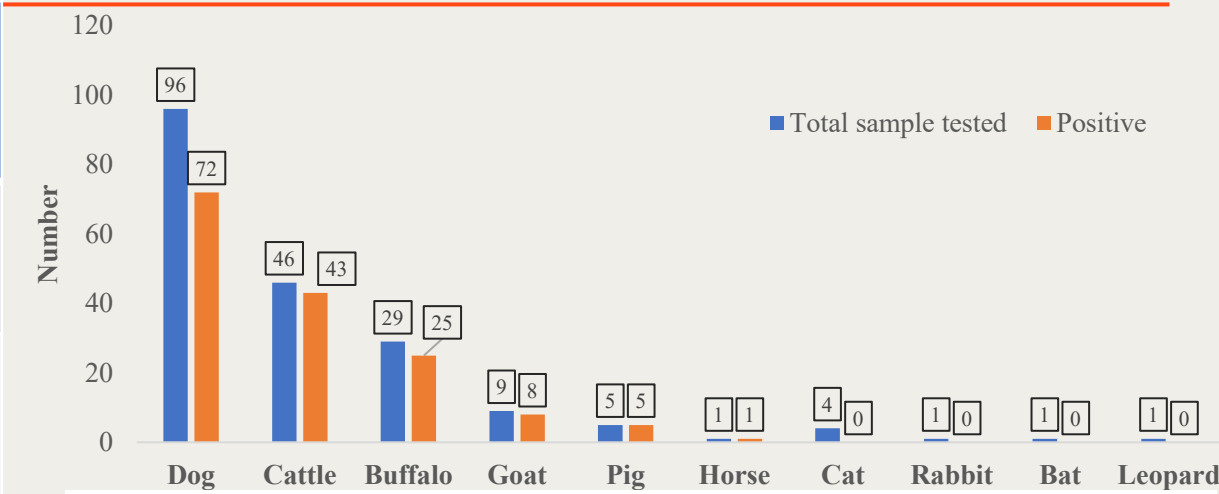
Central Veterinary Laboratory (1)
Veterinary Laboratories (5)
Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (1)



Diagnostic activities since October 2025

Month	Species	No of sample tested	Type of tests	No of positive
November	Dog, Cattle, Buffalo and Goat	14	LFA and FAT	9
December	Dog, Cattle, Buffalo, goat, Pig, Rabbit and Bat	44	LFA, FAT and PCR	35
January	Dog, Cattle, Buffalo, goat, Cat and Horse	37	LFA and FAT	33
February	Dog, Cattle, Buffalo, goat and Pig	41	LFA and FAT	33
March	Dog, cattle, buffalo, Cat and Wild animal (Leopard)	18	LFA and FAT	10
April	Dog, cattle, buffalo, goat, cat and Pig	39	LFA and FAT	34
Total		193		154

Species Wise Distribution of Rabies Cases28



Rabies related activities since October 2025

29

Sample collection technique: Occipital Foramen

Capacity Building :

- Training of Brain sample collection and Dispatch – 194 participants
- MTOT on Spaying and castration- 45 Veterinarian
- Training on Rabies diagnosis using FAT and PCR at VL Dhangadi
- VL Dhangadi designated as rabies referral laboratory by MoALD (1st subnational level laboratory designated as referral laboratory)

School awareness programme- 36452 students

ABC programme – CRVH at central level, VHLSEC at provincial and Livestock service section at local level



Collaboration with Human health sector: Periodic data sharing, joint interaction programs, and testing of human CSF samples for rabies.

Reporting Mechanism: NAHIS for field reporting and LIMS for Laboratory reporting

Sample Submission from field:

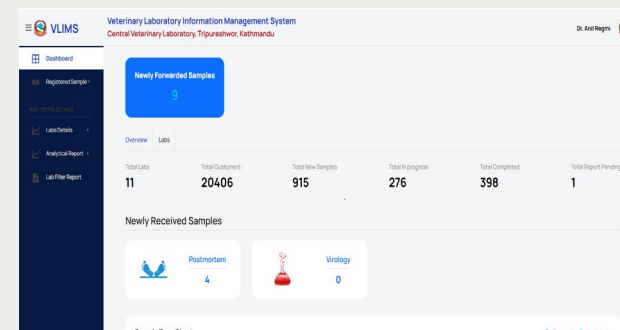
- nearby areas are delivered directly to the laboratory
- distant areas are sent by air, with pickup facilities provided at the airport.

Testing of brain samples from dogs that died of diseases other than rabies or died due to accidents – some positive cases detected (Canine distemper suspected)

External support:

FAO: Pandemic fund - Equipments, consumables, Capacity building in sample collection and Diagnosis

FAO/IAEA - Equipments, consumables and Capacity building



AWB No	Description of Item	PCS	Weight (KG)	Rate	Insurable Amount	VAT	Total (NPR)
4065670	SAMPLE #115	1	0.20	101.77	101.77	13.23	115.00

EMAIL:

PASSWORD:

☒ Remember me

[Forgot password?](#)

Strength of Nepal in Rabies control

1. Institutional Framework

- One Health Section in DLS
- Functioning laboratory system of Nepal for rabies diagnosis and surveillance.
- National Vaccine Production laboratory
- Veterinary Standard and Drug regulatory Lab.
- VL Dhangadhi- dedicated Rabies Reference Laboratory

2. Policy and Legal Framework

- One Health Strategy, National Animal Health policy
- Final draft of the National Rabies Control Strategy prepared.
- Rabies listed as a notifiable disease under the Animal Health Act and in Public health sector

3. Programs

- Animal Birth Control programs, MTOT on Spaying and castration
- Brain sample collection and dispatch training
- School and community awareness
- Regular World Rabies Day celebrations
- Anti-rabies vaccination campaign
- Outbreak Investigation
- Vaccine effectiveness testing (Sero-monitoring)
- Interaction programme with human professionals

4. Others .

- NAHIS for field reporting, LIMS for Lab Reporting
- Testing human CSF sample for Rabies diagnosis
- Dog Registration in fragmented approach



- Increasing and large forest cover area – increased wild-domestic interface (Wild animal Oriented rabies).
- Overpopulation of community dog with frequent wild interface (buffer area)
- Dog census conducted only in limited area, nationwide database yet to be developed
- Low vaccination coverage, Vaccine Insufficiency
- Capacity to test the quality of vaccine is inadequate
- Issues associated with rabies virus seed stock used in vaccine production.
- No clear chain of command between three tiers of government, Under reporting
- Management of Cold chain of vaccine : from production/import to vaccination.

- Participation in Proficiency testing
- RFFIT capacity building at central level (Training, CVS-11, Positive control, Protocol for RFFIT)
- Capacity building of official veterinary services for quality testing of in country produced and imported vaccine
- Establish FAT Diagnostic Facility in all sub national Laboratories
- Increase Rabies Surveillance with outbreak investigation (joint outbreak investigation)
- Increase Dog vaccination coverage (>70% population)

MOALD

DLS

Veterinary Laboratories

VHLSEC

Local Level

WOAH

FAO

IAEA

thank you!



Rabies Control in Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Abubakar
Senior Scientific Officer
National Veterinary Laboratory
Ministry of National Food Security and Research
Islamabad, Pakistan

Country Overview

- Pakistan remains among the highest rabies-burden countries globally with an estimated 2,000–5,000 human deaths annually, predominantly dog-mediated.

Primary Reservoir	Domestic and stray dogs (>95% of human cases)
Estimated Annual Deaths	2,000–5,000 humans (underreported)
Stray Dog Population	~25 million (estimated, national)
Vaccine Coverage Gap	Acute shortage of ~800,000 vaccine doses nationally
Key Control Strategy	Mass Dog Vaccination (MDV) targeting ≥70% coverage
Global Target	Zero by 30 — elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030
National Policy Status	No formal national rabies control program as of 2025
Key Pilot Success	Rabies Free Pakistan (RFP) — 36,997 dogs vaccinated, 11,397 sterilized (2018–2022)

Epidemiological Situation

- >95% human cases linked to dog bites

- ~25 million stray/free-roaming dogs estimated nationally

- Significant underreporting in rural areas

- High burden in Karachi, Sindh and urban slums

Regional and Global Commitments

- Alignment with WHO, WOA, FAO 'Zero by 30' strategy

- Participation in SAARC regional rabies initiatives

- FAO-supported National Action Plan (2022)

The NAP outlines a structured roadmap for achieving the Zero by 30 targets, encompassing animal-side interventions including

- mass dog vaccination,
- stray dog population management,
- diagnostic capacity, and
- inter-agency coordination.

Formal adoption and implementation of the NAP as binding national policy remains incomplete, and sporadic.

Key Drivers of Rabies Persistence

- Large unmanaged dog population

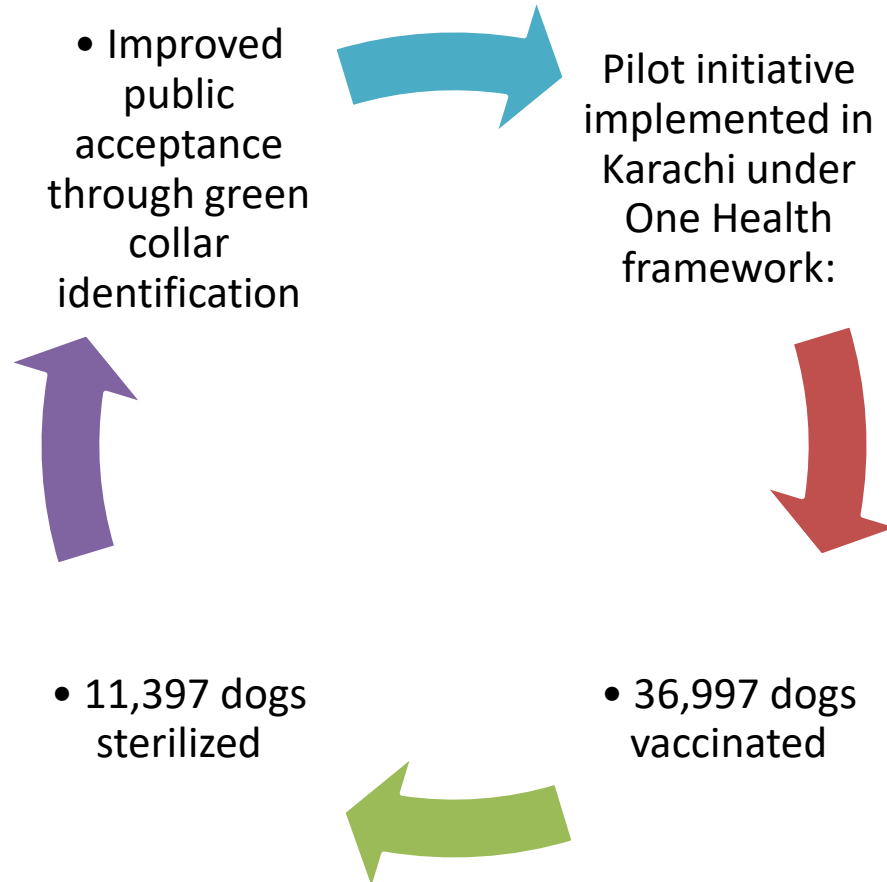
- Limited dog vaccination coverage

- Weak surveillance systems

- Fragmented intersectoral coordination

- Inadequate awareness and access to PEP

Rabies Free Karachi Initiative



Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (TNVR) programs



Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (TNVR) programs, though operationally similar to ABC/CNVR, have been implemented in a sporadic, non-systematic manner by various local municipalities and NGOs in Pakistan.



Scaling TNVR to a meaningful proportion of the stray dog population would require institutionalization within provincial livestock departments with dedicated funding, trained personnel, and robust monitoring frameworks.

Animal Health Infrastructure

- Provincial Livestock Departments involved in surveillance
- UVAS Lahore and NVL supporting diagnostics and research
- Limited laboratory capacity for FAT and RT-PCR
- Need for integrated animal-human surveillance

FAO National Action Plan (2022)



Key strategic
pillars:



- Mass Dog
Vaccination (MDV)



- Dog population
management



- Diagnostic
strengthening



- One Health
coordination



- Community
awareness



Major Challenges



- Financial constraints and vaccine shortages



- Weak cold-chain and logistics



- Limited diagnostic infrastructure



- Governance decentralization



- Dependence on pilot projects

Policy and Governance Gaps

- No fully operational national rabies control program
- Inconsistent provincial implementation
- Limited dog registration and movement control
- Weak enforcement of surveillance and reporting

Recent Relevant Publications

Study / Publication	Key Contribution	Year	Institution
Ahmad et al., Acta Tropica	Comprehensive review of rabies endemicity constraints and solutions in Pakistan	2021	UVAS Lahore & collaborators
Ahmed et al., BMC Public Health	KAP survey of canine rabies in KPK and Punjab; baseline data for targeted interventions	2020	UVAS Lahore, Texas Tech Univ., Bhutan RLDC
Salahuddin et al., IJID One Health	Documentation of the RFP One Health pilot — MDV and ABC outcomes in Karachi	2023	Indus Hospital Research Center, Karachi
Salahuddin et al., Trans R Soc Trop Med Hyg	Analysis of human rabies deaths; call for reforming prevention facilities	2023	Indus Hospital and Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center
Jabbar et al., Public Health Challenges	Policy review and recommendations for rabies control in Pakistan	2024	UVAS Lahore, EHESP Paris, LSHTM
Sadia et al., Sarhad J Agriculture	Review of Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) types and feasibility for Pakistan	2025	Univ. of Agriculture Faisalabad & collaborators
Springer J Epidemiol Global Health	One Health barriers, facilitators and framework for rabies elimination in Pakistan	2025	Multi-institutional, Karachi-based study

Acknowledgements

- FAO | WHO | WOAH | Provincial Livestock Departments | NVL Islamabad | UVAS Lahore | Indus Hospital Research Center

Sri Lanka

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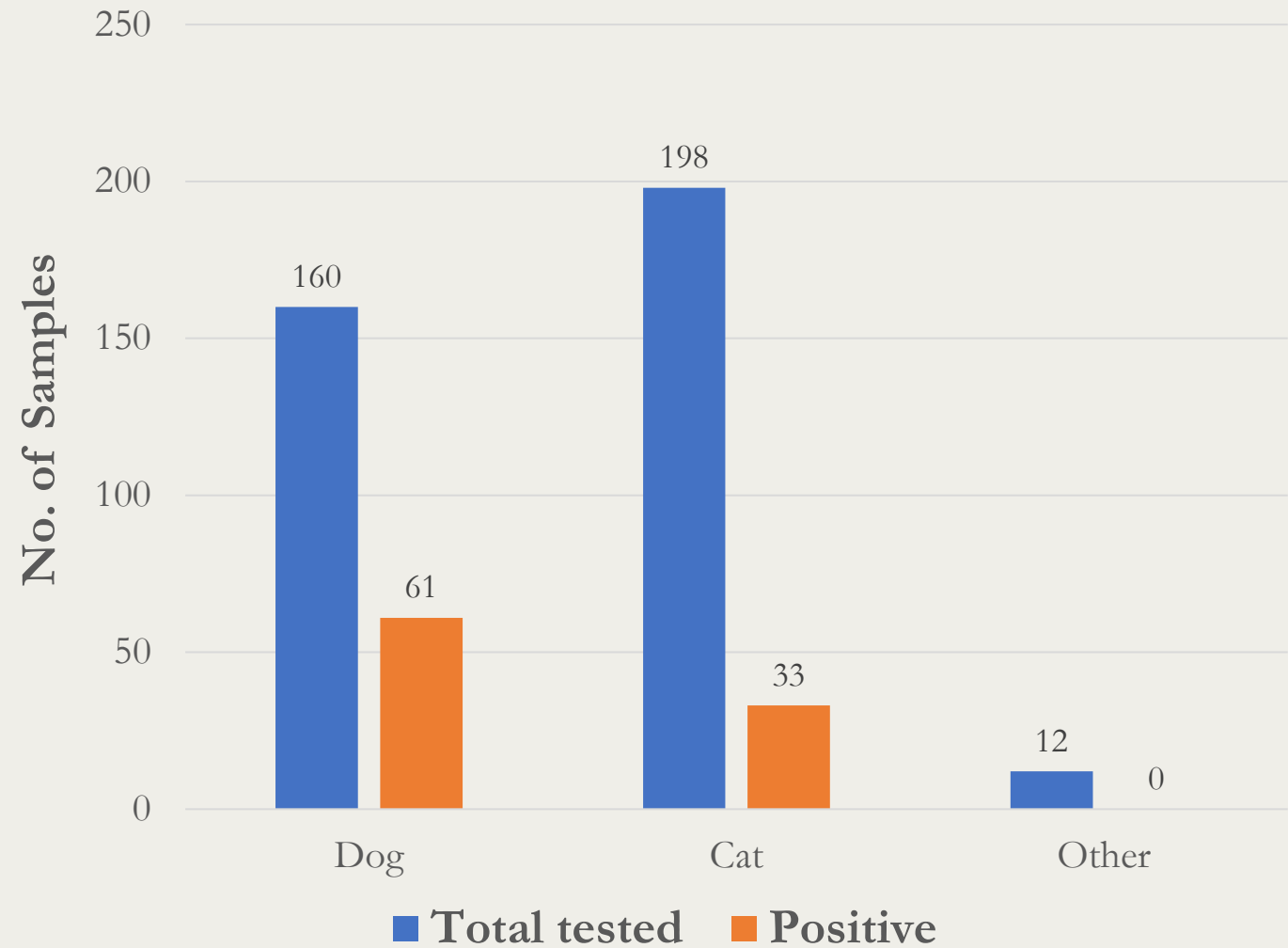
13 May 2026, 3 PM Japan time (Virtual)

Dr. W.M.A.D. Wanninayaka

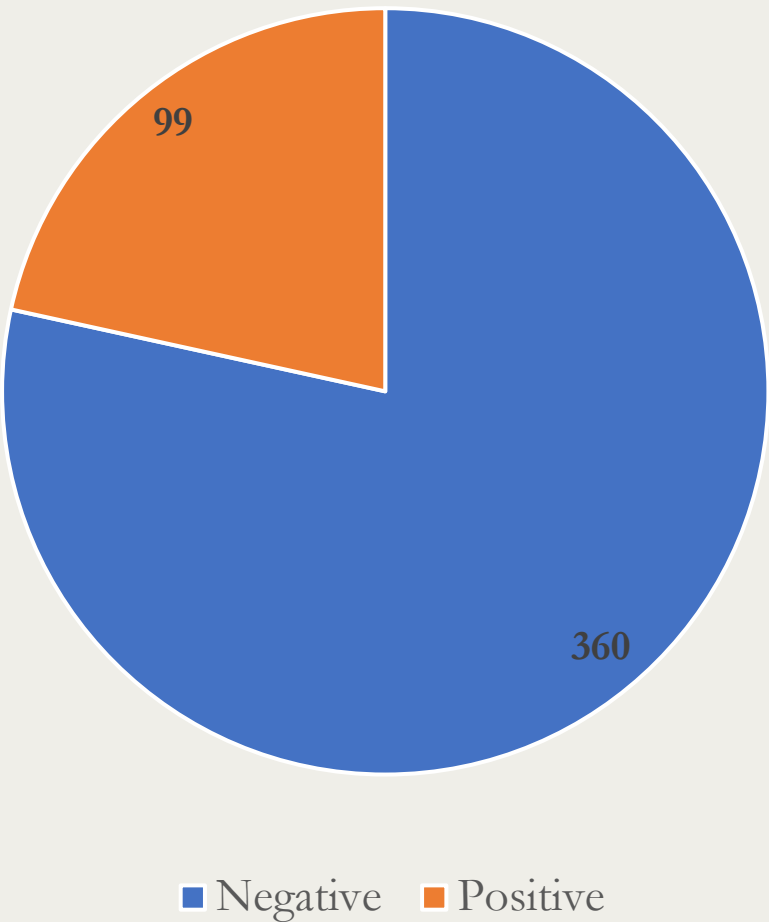
Veterinary Research Officer
Animal Virus Laboratory
Veterinary Research Institute

Month (s)	Species	No of brain sampled, tested	Type of tests	No of positives	Remarks
January – April 2026	Dogs, cats, other	317	DFA – direct fluorescent antibody assays	Dog 55/140 Cat 33/167 Other 0/10 (88/317)	Medical Research Institute
January – April 2026	Cat (31) , Dog (20) , Other -squirrel (2)	53	DFA – direct fluorescent antibody assays	Dog- 6/20 Cat -0/31 Other 0/2 (6/53)	Karapitiya Hospital
January to April 2026	Dog 2 positive, Cat 2 positive, Cattle 1 positive	89	DFA – direct fluorescent antibody assays	5/89	FVMAS
Total		459		99	

Animal rabies diagnosis, 2026 - MRI and Karapitiya Hospital



Samples tested for Rabeis 2026 (459)



1. New brain sampling techniques in animals since October 2025

25 Veterinarians were trained with Occipital foramen approach method for brain sample collection

2. New rabies diagnostic techniques since October 2025 - No

Available Diagnostic Facilities within 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
- RT-PCR

3. Rabies diagnostic facilities in the field such as in districts since October 2025

Lateral flow assays (LFAs) -18 Veterinary Investigation officers trained for this diagnostic method in the field.

18 veterinary investigation centres developed for rabies diagnosis at field level

4. 2026, Samples were not submitted to the reference laboratory for diagnosis purpose

Training on Animal Rabies Diagnosis 9-12 February 2026 Sri Lanka under WOAHA support for Rabies Control activities in Sri Lanka



- The brain samples from dogs that died of diseases other than rabies or died due to accidents are not currently request testing for rabies
- New 25 veterinarians were trained on brain sample collection under WOAHP support for Rabies Control activities in Sri Lanka
- The Veterinarians, laboratories in the field submitted rabies suspected brain samples to national laboratory for confirmation.
- Squirrels, Rats, Rock squirrel and gray mongoose were tested for Rabies
- Positive animal rabies results were shared with human health sector in Sri Lanka

- 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

WOAHA Support for rabies control activities for Sri Lanka

Training of Trainers on Mass Dog Vaccination 2-4 February 2026

Training of Trainers on dog handling , management and vaccination skills 5-6 February 2026

Training on Animal Rabies Diagnosis 9-12 February 2026 Sri Lanka



Thank you

