

# Brunei Darussalam

## ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy revision workshop

*Bali, Indonesia*

*2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023*

### Overview

- Number and incidence of human and animal rabies per year - 0
- Proportion of districts/provinces with zero human rabies case reporting -100%
- In 2014, in line with the ASEAN Rabies Elimination Strategy, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) and MOH jointly developed the **Rabies surveillance plan for Brunei Darussalam**. This comprises the following actions:
  - ❖ Animal health surveillance;
  - ❖ Importation of live animals;
  - ❖ Detection in animals;
  - ❖ Animal bite registry;
  - ❖ Rabies Drive-Through Vaccination (started in 2022)
  - ❖ Detection in humans.
  - ❖ Rabies Vaccination to Frontliners
  - ❖ Supporting NGOs and Stakeholders in Stray Dog Population Management

### **Ministries involved:**

- Ministry of Health is responsible for Human rabies surveillance and management of human rabies
- MPRT's Biosecurity and Livestock Divisions are responsible for monitoring rabies status in the animal sector.
- Ministry of Home Affairs enforce the **Dog Act** that mandates registration of owned dogs.

### **Human resources available:**

- Clinical management and testing algorithms for suspected rabies cases have been developed and distributed to all clinicians.

### **Logistic arrangement:**

- Availability of human Rabies vaccines to Government health facilities has been set up.

### Major challenges

- No availability of human rabies virus testing currently in Brunei Darussalam. Any sample for testing will be referred to Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research Australia via Gribbles Pathology.
- Passive surveillance of stray dogs is being undertaken by MPRT. Disease surveillance in animals (domestic and wild) relies on reporting from clinics/community.
- The need for improved public awareness on responsible pet ownership in order to reduce stray dog population.

### Stakeholder roles

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
Animal shelters	Largely involved in taking care of roaming stray dogs and adoption to the public
Veterinary Clinics	Helps government's initiative to administer vaccines to client's pets
Relevant NGO's	Helps increase awareness to the public

### Upcoming activities and plans

- To continue Rabies Vaccination Drive Through Campaign
- To hold more awareness campaigns to institutions and the public

### Major opportunities

- **Human Rabies surveillance plan for Brunei Darussalam** was reviewed in 2019 and revised according to latest WHO recommendations and developed **Guidelines for the control and management of rabies and suspected rabies in Brunei Darussalam** for the use by clinicians in managing patients who presented with dog bites or scratches.
- Dog bite registry was created in 2016, All health facilities are requested to report human cases of dog bites to Disease Control Division and the reported cases are monitored for appearance of any symptoms within 14 days
- Surveillance indicators, recording and reporting system have been developed for monitoring and evaluation of National surveillance on rabies.
- In 2019, ASEAN tripartite Rabies mission to assess Rabies situation and preparedness
- Budget is available for the purchase of Rabies Vaccines for animals via MPRT
- Vaccination campaign is widely supported by the public, media, veterinary clinics and relevant stakeholders.