



Media Scanning & Verification Cell



Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6854	18.07.2022	20.07.2022	Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/state-records-5-rabies-deaths-over-6000-dog-bite-cases-in-just-40-days/articleshowprint/92944861.cms
Title:	Maharashtra records 5 rabies deaths, over 6,000 dog bite cases in just 40 days			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to SSU- Maharashtra			

Five people died of rabies and 6,691 people sought treatment for dog bites at 23 state-run medical colleges and hospitals in Maharashtra between June 1 and July 10, data from the Medical Education and Drugs Department showed.

Experts said lack of adequate resources for sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs, inadequate first-aid training among citizens and delayed care after dog bites have led to a rise in rabies cases over the years. Once symptoms appear, rabies is nearly always fatal.

Doctors said animal bites need full call, including rabies vaccine and fast-acting anti-rabies antibodies called immunoglobulins. "Since June 1, two rabies deaths each have been reported at government medical colleges in Miraj and Kolhapur. Another death was at Solapur government medical college," a MEDD official said. Pune's BJ Medical College and Sassoon General hospital had the most dog bites between June 1 to July 10.

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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“Sassoon Hospital recorded 1,234 bites in the last 40 days. The government hospital in Baramati had 909 cases,” the MEDD official said. The growing canine population is another problem, experts said.

India roughly has 6.2 crore strays. In Pune alone, the number is more than 3 lakh. “A decade ago, the number of strays was just 40,000 in Pune,” said Dr Amitav Banerjee, an expert in preventive medicine.

Dr Muralidhar Tambe, from the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies, said many doctors, mainly in rural Maharashtra, don't know they are supposed to administer both the anti-rabies vaccine and the fast-acting rabies antibodies (immunoglobulins) after grade III bites — when the skin is breached.

“Delayed and inadequate care are the main causes of rabies,” he said.

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