

### d Animal rabies reported from Gauteng Province

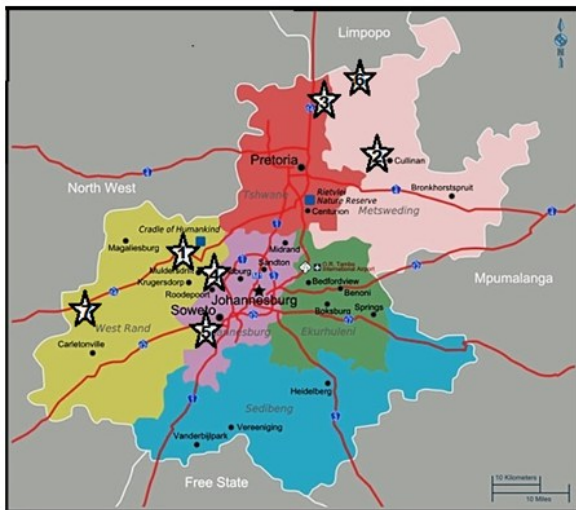
In May 2016, Gauteng provincial veterinary services confirmed the presence of rabies in three jackals. The jackals were found in the Muldersdrift, Broederstroom and Boekenhout (Tshwane) areas in three separate incidents. In one case, the animal appeared unusually tame and entered a building. Three human contacts were given post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Two persons required rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine, as they had sustained category three injuries (a scratch or lick to an open wound), while the third required only rabies vaccine as there was no contact with saliva nor injuries sustained. Although cases of rabies in animals in Gauteng are unusual, there have been a number of cases in the past 5 years (Figure 2).

Following exposure to any animal, a risk evaluation should be done to assess the need for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Canid biotype rabies circulates in dogs but also in black-backed jackals, bat-eared foxes, genet, African wild cats, aardwolf, polecats, badgers, mongooses, squirrels and suricates. Occasionally cows, domestic cats, cane rats and antelope are infected. Following exposure to any of these animals, an evaluation of the animal behaviour should be elicited. Unusually tame behaviour (in wild animals) or aggressive behaviour in an unwell domestic animal is of concern. The geo-

graphical location and known patterns of canine rabies should be considered. A history of vaccination of the offending animal is not necessarily proof that the animal is rabies free. Once it is deemed that PEP is required, the type of exposure should be evaluated: if intact skin is broken the injury is considered a category three injury and PEP consisting of rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) and rabies vaccine should be given. Non-category three exposures require only rabies vaccine. Consult the national rabies guidelines at [http://www.nicd.ac.za/assets/files/B5\\_rabies\\_revised\\_2010%282%29.pdf](http://www.nicd.ac.za/assets/files/B5_rabies_revised_2010%282%29.pdf) for full details regarding PEP, and see the article in this edition on equine RIG.

Regarding the number of human rabies cases in South Africa, only a single case has been diagnosed to date. A young boy in KwaZulu-Natal Province was exposed to a rabid cat in December 2015, and was diagnosed with rabies in January 2016, prior to his death.

**Source:** Division of Public Health, Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS; Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS; Gauteng and National Department of Veterinary Services



#	Location	Animal	Month/year
1	Muldersdrif, Lanseria	2 x jackals	May 2016
2	Doornkraal, Tshwane	Honey badger	April 2016
3	Buffelsdrift, Tshwane	Cat	February 2016
4	Kloofendal, Helgedruin, Roodepoort	Domestic dogs	August 2015
5	South-Western Johannesburg	Domestic dogs	2010
6	Boekenhoutkloof, Tshwane	Jackal	May 2016
7	Randfontein	Dog, Jackal, Mongoose	June 2016

**Figure 2.** Details of the cases of confirmed animal rabies in Gauteng 2010-2016 that are known to the NICD. **NB:** When conducting a risk assessment for animal exposures taking place near the borders of Gauteng, health care workers should consider the prevalence of rabies amongst animals in adjacent provinces.