

1 ZONOTIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

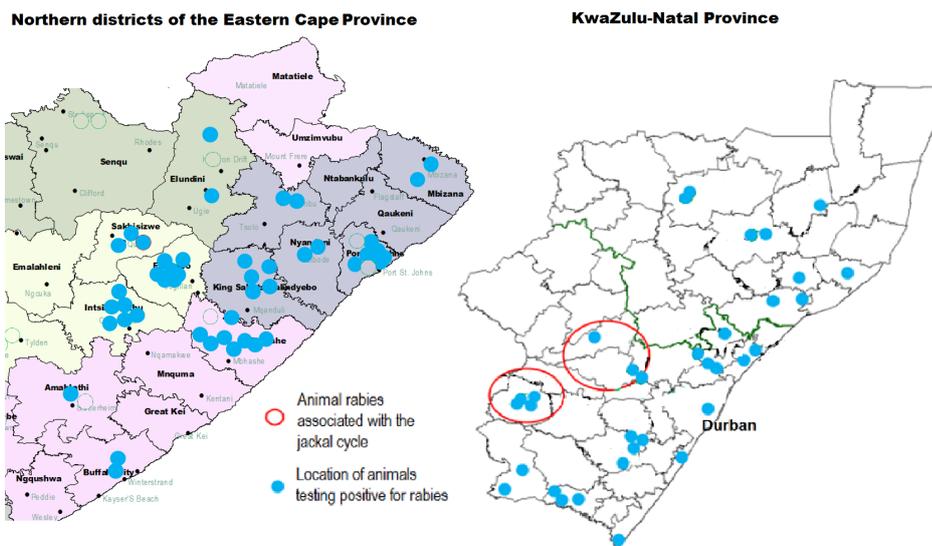
a Rabies in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces

In Gauteng Province, animal cases in the West Rand and in northern Tshwane continue to be detected. The cases have mainly occurred in black-backed jackals, but dogs, cats, cattle, sheep and goats, horse and honey badgers have also been implicated. No human cases have been reported in the province.

In KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces, canine rabies continues to circulate (Figure 1). Rabies in dogs has been increasingly prevalent in November 2016 in the iLembe area, 65 km north of Durban, as well as districts south of Durban proximate to Eastern Cape Province (Figure 1). Two epicentres of rabies associated with the jackal cycle are present in inland KZN districts. Ongoing collective efforts to vaccinate dogs in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces have lead to a

substantial reduction in canine rabies cases over the last 10 years, and a consequent decrease in human cases in the provinces.

Human rabies cases in South Africa occur almost every year, with median of eleven cases annually from 1983 to 2015. People acquire rabies mostly following exposure to rabid dogs, however from 1983 until 2015, nine cases of human rabies have occurred following exposure to rabid cats. Exposure to non-domestic animals accounts for very few human rabies cases (3%). However, domestic animals such as cattle, dogs and cats are sometimes infected by wild animals that enter farms, gardens, and homes. Post-exposure prophylaxis following exposure to rabid animals will prevent rabies in humans. For guidelines on post-exposure prophylaxis see www.nicd.ac.za



Source: Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS; (januszp@nicd.ac.za)

Figure 1. Location in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape provinces of animals testing positive for rabies in October and November 2016. Data and map courtesy Veterinary Services, Department of Agriculture, KZN (K.LEROUX@kzndard.gov.za)