

## 1 ZONOTIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

### a An update on rabies in South Africa

From 14 November to 9 December 2016 one additional case of animal rabies has been confirmed from Gauteng Province. This case involved a dog from Hekpoort, located on the north-western outskirts of the province (data source: ARC-OVI). Since April of this year, a total of 50 animals including 28 jackals has been confirmed rabid in the western part of Johannesburg and northern Tshwane including Mogale City, Randfontein, Merafong City, Tshwane, Muldersdrift, Lanseria, Krugersdorp and Kromdraai surrounds (data source: ARC-OVI). No human cases of rabies have been associated with the outbreak in Gauteng yet, but many cases of possible exposure have been reported.

During the same period, animal rabies cases have also been reported from Mpumalanga (Orpen, Nkomazi and Nelspruit surrounds) (n=6); North West (Lichtenburg, Madibeng, Vryburg, Ditsobotla) (n=6); Limpopo (Tzaneen, Maruleng) (n=2) and Free State (Qwa-Qwa, Bethlehem) (n=2) provinces (data source: ARC-OVI, APVL). During this same time, at least 5 animal rabies cases were reported from KwaZulu-Natal (Underberg, Greytown, Vryheid and Kokstad) (data source: APVL).

Animal cases have been reported from the Eastern Cape Province, although numbers have not yet been confirmed.

Appropriate management of persons following exposure to animals potentially infected with rabies is crucial to prevent rabies in humans. Each dog bite case, but also exposure to rabid livestock and wildlife (e.g. cattle, jackal, mongoose etc.), should be considered as possible risk. Any exposure that results in a break in skin (e.g. nicks, scratches) with contact with infected or potentially infected animal saliva is a risk for rabies transmission. Post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies is safe and effective and provides the only intervention for preventing human rabies. For more information on post-exposure prophylaxis for rabies in humans, please visit [www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za). Rabies post-exposure guidelines can be found on the 'Diseases A-Z tab'.

**Source:** Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS; ([januszp@nicd.ac.za](mailto:januszp@nicd.ac.za)), Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute; Veterinary Services, Department of Agriculture, KZN