

## 1 ZOOBOTIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

### a Update on rabies in Gauteng Province

In the past month, two dogs and one honey badger from the Mogale City and Randfontein surrounds were confirmed rabid (Data source: Agriculture Research Council — Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute/ARC-OVI). The honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*) attacked three dogs and two people in Swartkrans. The dog owners received rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, whilst the dogs were revaccinated against rabies. In a separate incident on a nearby farm in Krugersdorp West, a Jack Russell terrier was found dead and subsequently tested positive for rabies. Another Jack Russell terrier found on the property was sick and euthenased on suspicion of rabies, which was later confirmed by laboratory testing. The remaining three dogs residing on the property were also euthenased. None of the animals had been vaccinated against rabies. Three members of the family residing on the farm were given rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. A total of 47 animals (5 dogs, 28 jackals, 2 cats, 1 horse, 9 livestock and 2 honey badgers) have been confirmed rabid in Gauteng since May this year to date (Data source: ARC-OVI MalepeK@arc.agric.za). No human cases

have been associated with the increase in reports of animal rabies in the Province. Many potential cases of exposure have been reported and received rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. To date, a total of two human cases have been confirmed in South Africa, one case from KwaZulu-Natal Province and another from Free State Province.

It remains urgent that pet owners vaccinate their domestic animals (cats and dogs) against rabies and that persons who are exposed to sick animals seek immediate medical attention in order to assess the risk for rabies. For rabies post-exposure guidelines and more information on rabies in South Africa, visit [www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)

**Source:** Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS; ([januszp@nicd.ac.za](mailto:januszp@nicd.ac.za)); Agriculture Research Council — Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute/ARC-OVI