

Epidemiological studies on Rabies in human & animal of some provinces of the Yemen Republic

By

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ABSTRACT

Our study concerning statistic for year 2004-2006 for rabies in Yemen provinces is worsening . This was shown by the increasing number of bitten persons, where around 5000 persons are contacting health centers annually seeking emergency care and protection . It was also shown by over 20 death cases from rabies every year .

The source of human infection by rabies in Yemeni towns and villages are as follow : Dog: 99.49% and Cat : 0.51% . This goes with the existence of over one million stray dog in Yemen (10-20% of these dogs are human owned , and the rest are stray dogs). We run some field survey covering 20 villages in Tamar province during January – March of 2007 in coordination with the governorate health office and the central veterinary laboratory of Sana'a . This work showed increasing exposure of dogs to rabies(93.8% of exposed animals), and so are human being . Other animals like Cat, Fox, Cattle , Sheep and Donkeys showed very low rate of infection with rabies (less than 7% in total).

The distribution of rabies in various studied governorates for years 2004 to 2006 were as follows: Sana'a 30.1%, Ibb 21.4% , Taiz 20.2% , Hodeida 11.4%, Tamar 8.7% Amran 7.0% Hajja 0.8%, Al-Bedha 0.3% and Mahweet 0.1% .

According to our field observation it was noticed that many factors can contribute to the spread of rabies in Yemen and they include :

- 1- Economical causes & low level of income.
- 2- Poor and bad veterinary services and an unequal distribution of these services plus the low number of veterinarians & veterinary technicians.
- 3- Poor hygienic education levels among people regarding rabies as one of the most dangerous zoonotic diseases .
- 4- The absence of coordination between the veterinary and public health departments .
- 5- Lack of epidemiological studies & data's concerning this highly infectious viral disease .
- 6- Lack of preventive measures and powerful regulation & quarantines necessary to protect livestock in Yemen .

For these reasons we suggested in this study a plan for the eradication & control of rabies in Yemen Republic , which can pave the way to a serious cooperation between six related ministries (the ministry of health & people , ministry of agriculture & irrigation , ministry of higher education & scientific research , ministry of general employment , ministry of interior , and ministry of finance). Action is needed for taking all necessary measures to implement this ambitious plan .