

Two rabies virus cycles.

Dog cycle:

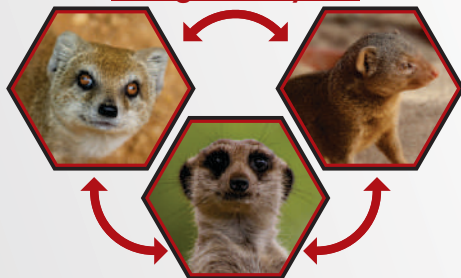


Incidental hosts



- The canine rabies virus strain easily spreads between dogs, jackals & bat-eared foxes.
- The virus can spill over to incidental species, e.g., humans, cattle, sheep, etc. which are not likely to spread the virus further (dead-end host), but they will die of the disease.
- Cats are very dangerous in that they could transmit the disease if infected.

Mongoose cycle:



Incidental hosts



- The mongoose rabies virus strains are adapted to several mongoose species and meerkats.
- This virus type spreads readily within and between species of mongoose and meerkats.
- The virus can spill over to dead-end hosts as discussed.
- Dogs would not readily spread this virus to other dogs before dying of the disease.

Private veterinarian details:

Zerorab vaccine:

For the immunisation of

- dogs, cats, cattle, sheep and goats.
- **Dosage:**
1 ml I/M or S/C.



State veterinarian details:

Love to hate RABIES



ANIMAL HEALTH IS IN OUR DNA

Rabies is a viral animal disease.

- It is transmitted in the saliva of infected animals through **bites, licks, and scratches**.
- Humans can also be affected as rabies is a zoonotic disease (a disease that can be transmitted to humans from animals).

Symptoms:

- In all species **changed behaviour** is the most common finding.

Clinical signs in dogs:

- Change in temperament,
- Attacking and biting anything,
- Fever,
- Exaggerated responses to sound and light,
- Restlessness & nervousness,
- Snapping at imaginary flying insects,
- Disorientation,
- Wandering aimlessly,
- A fixed stare,
- Drooling saliva,
- Hoarse howling,
- Choking sounds,
- "Bone in throat" syndrome,
- Uncoordinated actions,
- Progressive paralysis,
- Dilated pupils,
- Irritability,
- Photophobia,
- Infliction of self-injury,
- Convulsions,
- Muscle spasms.

What to do if I see an animal behaving strangely?

- Contact state veterinary services, a veterinarian, or animal welfare.
- **Do not engage** with the animal but keep an eye on where it is until help arrives.
- Keep people and other animals away from suspected animal and do not process or consume the meat.

What if I get exposed?

- Wash the area of saliva contact or bite wound thoroughly with soap and running water for **at least 10 minutes**.
- Seek medical help immediately.
- Contact state veterinary services to follow up on the animal.
- At the clinic or hospital they will provide further treatment:
 - Attend to the wound.
 - Provide post-exposure vaccinations based on category of exposure.
 - Administer rabies immunoglobulins (RIG) to the wound if any bleeding of any size was seen.
- Make sure of the following:
 - **Do not delay treatment** whilst waiting for the animal's test results.
 - **Complete** the prescribed post-exposure vaccination protocol.
 - Do not suture the wound.
- **If uncertain about the protocol, the health practitioner can contact the NICD hotline. (+27 800 212 552)**

What if my pet gets exposed?

- Contact the state veterinary services **immediately**.
- Isolate your pet until they are examined.
- Take your pet's vaccination booklet along.

How can I assist?

- Make sure your pets are **vaccinated** by a vet, vet nurse or authorised official.
- Unvaccinated or inadequately vaccinated pets must be euthanised if exposed to rabies to protect their owners.

Dogs and cats:

- First vaccination at 12 weeks.
- Booster within 12 months.
- Thereafter **boost every 3 years**.

During an outbreak:

- All dogs of all ages should be vaccinated.
- If vaccinated before 12 weeks restart vaccination protocol above.

Help the community:

- Report suspected cases.
- Help family and friends to get their pets vaccinated.
- Be responsible pet owners.
- Get involved with animal welfare projects and rabies drives.

Grow your knowledge:

<https://rabiesalliance.org>

<https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/rabies/>

