GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LIVESTOCK,
FISHERIES AND VETERINARY SERVICES
KRISHI BHAWAN, TADONG (SIKKIM)

CIRCULAR

The most cost effective way to reduce human rabies deaths is through controlling rabies in dogs. Rabies can be controlled in dogs by mass vaccination of dogs and animal birth control of the population of owned and un-owned dogs.

Based on WHO/OIE experience in rabies control, it is necessary to vaccinate 70% of the total dog population in a short period of time, and maintain that immune coverage. It recommends an annual parenteral mass rabies vaccination program over 1-5 weeks and that the Animal Birth Control programme be continued for the remaining eleven months of the year. Then the incidence of Rabies will be reduced dramatically.

Sikkim will be the first state in India to become Rabies Free and will be a model state for the rest of India. There have been no human deaths in Sikkim from rabies since 2008, and no known cases of rabies in animals since May 2010. There has been public health benefits and economic savings and decreased psychological trauma associated with fear of rabies since the Programme started. Rabies free Sikkim will also have other economic benefits in terms of decreased livestock production and manpower losses. It will assist tourism, as visitors will be more comfortable visiting and trekking in Sikkim with no fear of rabies. There will also be further improvements in dog population control and animal welfare.

The SARAH Division has been implementing a statewide free Anti-Rabies vaccination camp every year during the month of Sep-Oct. For this current year, it has been decided that the vaccination camp will be conducted from 3rd of Sep to 2nd of October 2012. This is a unique initiative taken by the Department/SARAH Division for control and eradication of Rabies.

Therefore, it is hereby directed that the District officials and in-charge of all the centers to extend necessary help and cooperation during the proposed camp. The team will contact the Departmental staff, BDO's, Panchayats and student well in advance.

Further, it is also hereby directed that all the District J.D may kindly circulate the information to the In-charge of all the centers in their respective districts for effective implementation of the proposed camp. It is expected that all the in-charge of the centers will liaise with the public and panchayat for bringing in dogs and cats for the proposed camp.

The tentative date is enclosed for respective districts.

By Order

Sd/
Dr Tika Luckson
Director/AH&VS

Date 25/08/2012

Memo No. 781/AHLF&VS
Copy to:-
1) Secretary, AHLF&VS
2) Joint Director, East, West, South, North
3) Programme Manager/SARAH Division
4) Programme Coordinator/SARAH Division
5) File
6) Guard File

Dr. Tika Luckson
Director (AH & VS)
Dept. of AH, L, F & VS
Govt. of Sikkim