SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY ON RABIES

Coordinator: Paul C. Smith, CPT, VC, Asst Chief of Veterinary Medicine

Principal Investigators:	Paul C. Smith, CPT, VC Richard O. Spertzel, MAJ, VC
Assistant Investigators:	Kwanyuen Lawhaswasdi, D.V.M. Jack S. Stanton, MAJ, VC William E. Vick, CPT, VC
Period of Report:	1 April 1966-31 March 1967

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Previous studies indicating the ubiquity, and high incidence of rabies in the canine population of Thailand, tend to be confirmed by the number of positive cases among specimens submitted for diagnosis to this facility. Surveys of several species of rodents and other small mammals have revealed that a significant number of them are harboring rabies infections. Studies are being conducted to determine if these animals exhibit classical symptoms of the disease or if they are, in fact, asymptomatic carriers. Bat rabies has been diagnosed in frugivorous bats in Thailand. Previously, Southeast Asia had been considered as an area free of bat rabies. Recently a survey of the stray dog population of Bangkok has been instituted.

STUDY REPORTS

1. Title: Rabies Diagnostic Service

Principal Investigators: Paul C. Smith, CPT, VC
Richard O. Spertzel, MAJ, VC

Assistant Investigators: Kwanyuen Lawhaswasdi, D.V.M.
Jack S. Stanton, MAJ, VC
William E. Vick, CPT, VC

Objective: To maintain a facility that will provide a rapid and accurate rabies diagnostic service in potential human exposure from animal bite cases.

Description: The use of the Fluorescent Antibody Technique, Seller's Stain and animal inoculation tests provide both accurate and timely information.

Progress: The results of suspect specimens submitted during this report period are shown in table I.

Table I

Species	#Examined	#Negative	#Positive
Dog	142	76	66
Cats (Domestic)	26	20	6
Human	1	0	1
Horses	2	0	2
Ox	1	0	1
Cats (Sylvatic)	4	2	2
Others	32	32	0
Totals	208	130	78

There were a total of 78 positive cases among the 208 suspect specimen submitted. More than 37% (37.5%) of the specimens were positive by the fluorescent antibody test and the mouse inoculation tests.