

STUDY REPORTS

1. Title: Rabies Diagnostic Service

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Objective The objective is to maintain a facility that will provide a rapid and accurate rabies diagnostic service in potential human exposure to rabiesvirus from animal bite cases.

Description The use of Fluorescent Rabies Antibody (FRA) tests, Sellers stained impression smears 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 1. There were a total of 126 positive cases among 330 suspect specimens submitted. On 13 March 1968 Dr. Prakorb Boonthai requested that we provide laboratory diagnostic service for the Bamrasnardura Fever Hospital for patients admitted with a clinical diagnosis of rabies. During the remainder of March three cases were diagnosed positive for rabies by Fluorescent Rabies Antibody Tests, Sellers stained impression smears and mouse inoculation.

Summary During the period of this report 330 routine suspect specimens were submitted to the laboratory. 38.2% or 126 of these specimens were diagnosed positive. Correlation between FRA test and animal inoculation has been very high. All cases diagnosed positive by FRA were positive on mouse inoculation except two. These two specimens had been fixed in formalin and both were from dogs with clinical histories compatible with rabies. The fluorescence was demonstrated after several washings of the brain tissue in phosphate buffer saline to remove as much formalin as possible. Staining was light but characteristic when FRA was suspended in normal mouse brain but was absent when FRA was prepared with rabies-infected mouse brain. Two decomposed specimens were diagnosed positive by mouse inoculation following a tentative negative diagnosis by FRA test.

Table 1. Results of Examinations of Specimens Submitted for Routine Rabies diagnosis.

| <u>Species</u> | <u># Examined</u> | <u># Positive</u> | <u>% Positive</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dogs | 234 | 121 | 51.7 |
| Cats | 42 | 0 | 0 |
| Nonhuman Primates | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Rats | 11 | 1 | 9.1 |
| Bats | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Humans | 3 | 3 | 100 |
| Others | 16 | 1 (Ox) | 6.3 |
| Total | <u>330</u> | <u>126</u> | <u>38.2</u> |