

SEATO MEDICAL RESEARCH STUDY ON RABIES

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Rabies is an enzootic disease of major importance among domestic animals both in rural and urban areas in Thailand. Previous surveys of stray dog populations have shown infection rates of 2-6 percent. Forty to seventy-five percent of the routine canine specimens submitted to the two major diagnostic laboratories are positive for rabies. Concise data of human deaths from rabies is not available because no attempt is made to confirm clinical diagnoses by laboratory procedures and the disease is not considered a reportable one.

Results of surveys conducted in sylvatic animal populations during this report period have failed to confirm previous findings of rabiesvirus infections in indigenous rodent and bat populations.

Programs to educate the general populace to the dangers and prevalence of rabies should be conducted both on a national and community level.