

## Animal Rabies in Thailand: Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory Services

Principal Investigators :                   John L. Brown, MAJ, VC  
  Kwanyuen Lawhaswasdi, DVM  
  Garrett S. Dill, Jr., MAJ, VC  
  William K. Andrews, SFC

### **OBJECTIVE :**

To provide rabies diagnostic services to US military personnel in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific.

### **DESCRIPTION :**

Every brain submitted was examined by the fluorescent antibody test and confirmed by mouse inoculation.\*

### **PROGRESS :**

Of 750 brain specimens examined, 230 (31%) were positive (Table 1). The prevalence of rabies in the dog (37%) and in the cat (4%) was slightly less than in recent years.

Withdrawal of US armed forces from Thailand resulted in a decrease in rabies specimens of military origin. For instance, during the first quarter of 1976, rabies specimens submitted by US armed forces accounted for 20% of the total. By the end of the second quarter of 1976, US armed forces specimens accounted for only 11% of the total.

---

\* As described in Laboratory Techniques in Rabies, Third Edition, WHO Monograph Series No. 23, (1973).

Table 1. Summary of Rabies Diagnoses 1 April 1975 - 31 March 1976

Species	Number of Specimens	Number Positive	Percent Positive
Canine	586	217	37
Feline	101	4	4
Human	5	4	80
Rodent	9	0	0
Primate	9	1	11
Rabbit	10	0	0
Bat	6	0	0
Squirrel	5	0	0
Monkey	8	0	0
Others*	11	4	36
Total	750	230	31

\* 1 avian, 3 mice, 4 bovine, 1 horse, 1 otter, 1 pig.