



Radio public service messages

Original scripts courtesy of Epidemiology Section, Vet Services,

Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, South Africa

(Modified for wider use by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control)

These short radio public service messages can be used to increase rabies awareness in your region.

Please send any feedback to campaigns@rabiesalliance.org.

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1. Rabies and dog behaviour

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert region*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximise their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of the dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate in your region* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15min with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Sub Messages

Behaviour (Socialization)

It is important to know that a dog's behaviour is dependent on one thing
"How it was socialised with people and other domesticated animals from day of birth until 16 weeks of age"

- If you handle your dog with kindness at an early age, it will get used to people and being handled. This will then allow you to handle it later when you need to get it vaccinated. Handling will become easy and less stressful for both you and your dog.
- If you interact with your new puppy, and carefully socialise it with people and other domesticated animals, your puppy will be a super dog which will be able to get vaccinated and treated easily.
- Your puppy's behaviour is also influenced by positive reinforcement and conditioning, which is the rewarding of good/positive behaviour so that the puppy will repeat these enjoyable behaviours.

Negative behaviour (unacceptable behaviour) is caused by people not the dog.

Positive behaviour (acceptable/enjoyable behaviour) is because of good socialization and positive conditioning at an early age.

2. Rabies prevention – World Rabies Day

The 28th of September is World Rabies Day. The mission of World Rabies Day is to raise awareness about the impact of human and animal rabies, how easy it is to prevent it, and how to eliminate the main sources.

Rabies is a disease that we all need to be aware of. It is present in (*insert area*), and it kills both animals and humans. The most important source of rabies in humans is from uncontrolled rabies in dogs, and children are often at greatest risk.

The rabies virus is transmitted in the saliva through bites, licking of open wounds or licking of mucous membranes, such as the mouth, by infected animals.

And don't be fooled, not all rabid animals behave in an aggressive manner.

Members of the public should avoid touching or patting strange, injured or sick animals. If you encounter an animal that you are concerned about, contact the local animal welfare organisation.

Please be aware that there is no cure for rabies once the symptoms are present, and it inevitably leads to death.

If there is suspected exposure to a rabid animal, a course of post-exposure immunisation injections should be administered. If you think that you may have been exposed to an animal of unknown vaccination status, wash any bite wounds with soap and water, and consult a doctor immediately.

Rabies prevention starts with the animal owner. **It is critical that all pets are regularly vaccinated against rabies.** An initial course of two vaccinations is required, followed by an annual booster vaccination. (*add if appropriate* - In (*insert area*) this yearly booster is compulsory, and failure to vaccinate domestic pets is illegal and a public health risk.)

Protect yourself, your pet and your community by ensuring rabies vaccinations are up to date.

3. Rabies prevention – general

Rabies Kills! Vaccinate Your Dog Today!!!

Rabies is a fatal disease caused by a virus which affects the nervous system of all mammals including humans. The rabies virus has been associated with animal bites for more than 3,000 years. Rabies is endemic throughout (*insert area*) and is responsible for between (*insert number of deaths in your area*) confirmed human deaths annually.

How is rabies spread?

The rabies virus is found in the saliva of infected animals. The virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal, or through saliva contamination of the mucous membranes. The rabies virus does not penetrate intact skin. The virus then travels along the nerves until it reaches the central nervous system, the spinal cord, the brain, and from there it reaches the salivary glands and is then shed into the saliva.

What are the symptoms of rabies?

Dogs may show aggression and try and attack other animals, cars, fences and people. They may bark for no reason; seem as though they have a bone stuck in their throat, salivate and may show paralysis of the lower jaw. They eventually show signs of paralysis in the hind legs and then die. Cattle get excited, bellow a lot, salivate, may become aggressive and show signs of paralysis before dying. Wild animals infected with rabies may seem tame and even come into houses. Sheep and goats may seem excited, become aggressive, chew stones, become paralysed and then die.

Rabies in humans

If a person is bitten by a rabid animal, the wound needs to be washed immediately with soap and running water. Take the person to the clinic immediately for treatment. It is important to complete the treatment in order to prevent rabies. If one does not seek treatment and the person becomes infected with rabies, that person WILL die – there is no cure!

Can rabies be treated?

Once the symptoms of rabies are seen, there is no treatment.

Can rabies be controlled?

Yes all cats and dogs over the age of three months should be vaccinated every year against rabies. Contact your State Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician for assistance with these vaccinations and keep your family safe.

What to do if you suspect an animal is rabid

Do not handle the animal. If possible, confine the animal so that the authorities are able to catch it for testing. Contact your nearest State Veterinarian, Animal Health Technician, Police Station or Health Department.

4. Rabies – general (very short)

Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across *(insert area)* and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained will result in a terrible death.

To prevent the disease: -avoid all contact with stray, unknown or sick dogs. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies.

If you are bitten by any animal you must:

- i. Wash the wound immediately in running water and soap for 15 minutes!
- ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
- iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT!

5. Rabies and responsible pet ownership (message 1)

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Getting your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. [If 70% of the dogs are vaccinated the disease will disappear]. (*add if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE!

Over (insert amount) is spent every year treating people for dog bites and rabies. Much of this can be avoided if people are aware of the dangers posed by strange dogs, and also how looking after your pet dog could reduce bite incidents and the contact of pets with possible rabid dogs.

Sub Messages

Responsible pet ownership. (Part 1)

Owning a pet is a privilege due to the loyalty and love they show their owners. It is also however a responsibility, as these animals are almost entirely dependent on your care. If you do not look after them, they will go and look for what they need in the form of food and company, and could cause all sorts of trouble for which you could be held responsible. It is important to bring your new puppy up carefully, so that you can handle the dog when necessary and it will listen to you. After the first 16 weeks your new dog's behaviour is set for life and your pet will behave according to what happens in these first few weeks.

It is common for dogs that are not fed or looked after properly, to go out and do some of the following :

- Turn over dustbins.
- Chase cars.
- Join up with packs around females in season, where fights can follow.
- Chase and kill farmed animals, sometimes for fun, often killing multiple animals without consuming them. Eggs and chickens are favourites for consumption. It is also common for dogs to attack calves as they are being born and in certain areas packs will hunt adult cattle. (This can cause big trouble with neighbours)
- Bite people- some people have been attacked by packs of dogs. (*insert if appropriate* - You can be prosecuted if your dog attacks someone else as the laws of the country say you need to keep your dog under control.)

6. Rabies and responsible pet ownership (message 2)

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

The disease can be prevented by:

- a. Getting your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. [If 70% of the dogs are vaccinated the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE!

Responsible pet ownership (part 2)

What can you do to help make pets happier and friendlier?

- Spend a lot of time with the puppy in the first 16 weeks of its life.
- If you bring it up with farmed animals it will not be aggressive toward them.
- The more affection the dog gets, the more protective and loyal it will be to the owner, and more tolerant towards people.
- Positive reinforcement/rewarding of good behaviour can also influence your dog to repeat desirable behaviours and help you handle it more easily.
- Toilet-train your dog, but be patient. It may take some time and consistency to help your dog develop the habit of going to the toilet area that you designate. If your dog does not always have access to the toilet area, be mindful of when it may need your help, so that it does not accidentally make a mess where you do not want it to. Remember, dogs commonly feel the need to urinate and/or defaecate upon waking in the morning, after every meal, and before bedtime. If you patiently help your dog build this habit, it will be a happier dog and you a happier owner.
- The more time you spend with the dog the easier it will be to handle it for vaccinations etc.
 - Feed your dogs adequately so they do not have to look for food.
 - Keep the dog in your yard, with a fence or a good running chain so the dog can move.
 - ***Do not leave the dog on a short chain!***
 - Exercise the dog by going for walks.
 - Pay him some attention everyday.
 - Ensure that your dogs are vaccinated regularly
 - When you de-worm your children de-worm your dog
 - Make sure your dog is healthy, if you have any concerns speak to a veterinarian or animal welfare organization.

7. Signs of rabies

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

The disease can be prevented by:

- a. Getting your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. [If 70% of the dogs are vaccinated the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the way that your dogs need to be vaccinated, and as owner you are responsible for this.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE!

Over (insert amount) is spent every year treating people for dog bites and rabies. Much of this can be avoided if people are aware of the dangers and symptoms of rabid animals, therefore reducing bite incidents and exposure to the disease.

Sub Messages

What to look for (signs of rabies)

It is important to note that there are two types of rabies – furious and dumb. The furious form has obvious symptoms of classical rabies whereas the dumb form is less obvious and so it is important not to approach an animal that is looking sickly.

Rabies symptoms in dogs are:

- Abnormal behaviour or behaviour change.
- Aggression
- Excessive salivation
- Paralysed lower jaw appears as if a bone is stuck in the throat.
- Staring gaze
- Howling
- Paralysis of the hind legs
- Uncoordinated movements
- Snapping at imaginary objects
- Aimless roaming
- In the dumb form of rabies the dog just appears weak and sick.

WARNING

There are many clinical symptoms so avoid and report strange or sick animals to the authorities.

8. Avoiding dog bites

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

The disease can be prevented by:

- c. Getting your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. [If 70% of the dogs are vaccinated the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- d. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE!

Over (insert amount) is spent every year treating people for dog bites and rabies. Much of this can be avoided if people are aware of the dangers posed by strange dogs, and also how, looking after your pet dog will reduce bite incidents and the contact of pets with possible rabid dogs.

Sub Messages

Avoiding contact with unknown animals: (Notify the local authorities of any unusual behaviour in dogs.)

- NEVER try to befriend or approach an unknown dog, especially if it is injured or sickly.
- Avoid groups of dogs, as these could turn on you. Keep as far away as possible from them.
- Do not shout at or try hitting dogs especially when they are in a group.
- Be very careful at night as this is the time when dogs generally gather in groups and roam around looking for food.
- Do not corner a dog.
- When a dog threatens you, walk slowly backwards while still facing the dog until it loses interest. Do not run away screaming – this will excite the dog even more.
- Do not feed unknown dogs; they will keep coming back for more.
- Keep your dogs in your yard preferably behind a fence.
- An unsterilized female will attract males to your house when she is in season, so have your dogs sterilised.
- Rubbish and discarded food attracts dogs, therefore keep your yard clean.
- If a dog attacks you, try putting any object you have, an item of clothing or a shopping bag in front of you so the dog will attack it, allowing you to get away safely.

9. Feeding your dog

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

The disease can be prevented by:

- a. Getting your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. [If 70 % of the dogs are vaccinated the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE!

Sub Messages

Feeding your dog.

Many of the problems experienced with dogs, relate to their need to find adequate nutrition, and if not found at home they will go out and find it elsewhere.

A dog needs a balanced diet, table scraps such as meat and leftover vegetables are far better than only maize meal or other cereal.

If your dog is not properly fed, it may go outside searching for food in the form of eggs, chickens or goats, for example. This can be where conflict starts between people and dogs.

If you cannot feed your dog with homecooked food, there are a lot of commercial well balanced nutritious foods available from shops, which are a healthier alternative than allowing your dog to find its own food.

Your dog should have access to fresh water at all times.

10. Sterilising your dogs

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

The disease can be prevented by:

- a. Getting your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. [If 70% of the dogs are vaccinated the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE!

Sub Messages

Sterilisation

Sterilisation is a surgical procedure which results in dogs, male or female, that are no longer able to breed and have puppies. It is performed by a veterinarian while the dog is under general anesthesia, and involves the surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus in female dogs, and testicles in male dogs.

If a dog is not sterilised it will seek a mate whether it is male or female. Many problems arise whenever dogs congregate around a female in season. Unwanted puppies are a cause for concern in communities, as people do not want to look after puppies, or allow them to grow up and become uncontrolled problem dogs.

Local animal welfare organisations may help to sterilise your dogs, or you could speak to your veterinarian. These routine operations are safe and will not have a negative effect on your dog's health. Your dog will be assessed beforehand to make sure that it is fit for surgery. Additional benefits of sterilisation are the prevention of most reproductive diseases.

- Intact or unsterilised female dogs attract male dogs, which could cause fighting and the spreading of rabies and other diseases.
- Sterilised female dogs stay at home, protect the family and have less disease.
- Intact or unsterilised male dogs wander around looking for female dogs, grouping together, killing farmed animals and generally causing trouble.
- Sterilised male dogs stay at home and protect the household, they have fewer fights and diseases.

11. Preventing other dog diseases

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog, and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximise their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Over (insert amount) is spent every year to treat people for dog bites and rabies. Much of this can be avoided if people are aware of the dangers posed by strange dogs, and also how, properly looking after your pet dog and getting it sterilised will significantly reduce bite incidents and the contact of pets with possible rabid dogs.

Sub Messages

Other diseases.

Apart from rabies, there are other diseases your dog gets that can also affect you and your family's health, so it is important to take good care of them. Feeding and handling your dogs well and getting them regularly dewormed and vaccinated against important diseases, are essential. Let us look at a few of these diseases:

- a. Stomach and intestinal worms -
 - Roundworms – internal parasites that are common in puppies and cause many deaths. Good pet health can minimize the effects of worms. Clinical signs may include diarrhoea, vomiting, anaemia (pale gums), poor condition (which increases their risk of becoming infected with other diseases.), poor growth, pot belly, dull coat, and blockage in intestines.
 - Tapeworms – Internal parasites that are transmitted by fleas. When flea larvae feed on faeces that is contaminated with tapeworm eggs, the eggs hatch inside the flea. A dog may then accidentally swallow a flea that contains these eggs. Tapeworms affect dogs of all ages. The infected dog will often scoot around on its rear end due to irritation by tapeworm segments. These are seen as little white rice-like grains in the faeces.
 - Children can accidentally pick up worm eggs when they do not wash their hands after playing in the dirt before eating a meal. A host of health conditions can occur depending where the larvae move in the body, which could be into the brain, liver, kidneys or lungs.
 - A regular and appropriate deworming regimen and flea control are important and effective in treating and preventing these worm infections.

- b. Mange – A parasitic disease caused by microscopic/very small mites that live on the skin of dogs. It causes hair loss and other skin lesions. The hair loss more commonly starts on the face or lower legs, and then progresses across the body. One particular form of mange called sarcoptic mange or scabies can infect people. Cases of scabies are common. This can be treated.
- c. Canine Distemper – A viral disease that kills many dogs and can be easily prevented by vaccination.
- d. Canine Parvovirus – This viral disease is highly contagious and is spread from dog to dog by direct or indirect contact with faeces of infected dogs. It can be especially severe in puppies who are not protected by maternal antibodies or vaccination. Vaccines can prevent this infection. If a person is bitten by an animal potentially carrying parvovirus they should consult a medical doctor immediately.

The bite victim may incur serious bacterial infections of the bone which can become life threatening if untreated or if treatment is delayed, whether or not the infected animal has parvovirus or rabies virus.

- e. Transmissible Venereal Tumour-/TVT – This is a common cancer of the reproductive organs.

It is transmitted by intact or unsterilised infected dogs. The tumours more commonly affect the external genitalia of both male and female dogs, because mating is the primary mode of transmission. But in some cases, tumours have also been found on the face, nose, mouth and body. TVT lesions on these sites are due to contact with the fluid that drains from the tumours. TVT can be treated easily, but treatment is expensive and can extend for several weeks. The medication is the same as that used for some cancer treatments. If you suspect that your dog has a TVT, get help from a veterinarian or local animal welfare centre.

12. Canine Distemper

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximize their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Sub Messages

Other diseases.

Apart from rabies, there are other diseases your dog gets that can also affect you and your family's health, so it is important to take good care of them. Feeding and handling your dogs well, and getting them regularly dewormed and vaccinated against important diseases, are essential. Let us look at a few of these diseases:

Canine Distemper–

Canine Distemper is a viral disease that kills many dogs and can be easily prevented by vaccination. Although distemper does not affect humans, it is related to the human measles virus. It is severe in dogs and will kill them.

The symptoms are:

- Goopy discharge from the eyes and nose
- Fever (which often comes and goes unnoticed)
- Poor appetite
- Coughing and the development of pneumonia
- Skin twitching
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Tremors, imbalance, and limb weakness
- Death

The virus is spread via coughing, through infected respiratory secretions, and enters the dog's body through its nose.

Protect your dog. Have it vaccinated against distemper.

13. Mange

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximize their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Sub Messages

Other diseases.

Apart from rabies, there are other diseases your dog gets that can also affect you and your family's health, so it is important to take good care of them. Feeding and handling your dogs well, and getting them vaccinated against important diseases, are essential. Let us look at a few of these diseases:

Mange –

Mange is a parasitic disease caused by microscopic mites that live on the skin of dogs. It causes hair loss and other skin lesions. The hair loss more commonly starts on the face or lower legs, and then progresses across the body. One particular form of mange called Sarcoptic mange can infect people, and is seen as scabies in humans. Cases of scabies are common. This can be treated easily by a medical clinic, but it is very itchy and can result in secondary infections in the skin if not treated properly.

Keeping your dogs clean, healthy and free of parasites will prevent your family from contracting the scabies mite.

You should dip your dogs on a regular basis. You can ask your veterinarian or animal welfare center about the proper dipping regimen.

14. Canine Parvovirus

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximize their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Sub Messages

Other diseases.

Apart from rabies, there are other diseases your dog gets that can also affect you and your family's health, so it is important to take good care of them. Feeding and handling your dogs well, and getting them regularly dewormed and vaccinated against important diseases, are essential. Let us look at a few of these diseases:

Canine Parvovirus –

Canine Parvovirus is a viral disease that is highly contagious and is spread through contact with faeces containing the virus. The virus is known to survive on inanimate objects - such as clothing or dog food bowls - and can survive for up to 5 months in the right conditions. Even insects and rodents can spread the disease. This means any faecal material or vomit from the infected dog needs to be removed with detergent and then a bleach solution should be used to clean and disinfect all contaminated surfaces and objects.

This disease can be especially severe and fatal in puppies that are not protected by maternal antibodies or vaccination.

Vaccines can prevent this infection.

Clinical signs of Parvovirus infection include:

- Very smelly diarrhoea
- Lethargic/depressed/weak puppies
- Pale gums
- Bloody diarrhoea
- Vomiting and poor appetite

15. Gastrointestinal Worms

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximise their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Sub Messages

Other diseases.

Apart from rabies, there are other diseases your dog gets that can also affect you and your family's health, so it is important to take good care of them. Feeding and handling your dogs well, and getting them regularly dewormed and vaccinated against important diseases, are essential. Let us look at a few of these diseases:

Gastrointestinal Worms -

We should always remember that stomach and intestinal worms, such as roundworms and tapeworms, affect all dogs and could affect our families as well. So it is important to have an effective deworming and parasite control regimen for the benefit of both the animal and family.

Fleas and a dirty environment cause tapeworms to grow and multiply. Keeping your house and garden clean could prevent tapeworms and roundworms from infecting your dogs and your children.

Children can accidentally pick up worm eggs when they do not wash their hands after playing in the dirt before eating a meal. A host of health conditions can occur depending where the larvae move in the body, which could be into the brain, liver, kidneys or lungs.

Stay protected. You need to deworm your family and dogs on a regular basis.

A regular and appropriate deworming regimen and flea control are important and effective in treating and preventing these worm infections.

16. Transmissible Venereal Tumours

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximise their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - i. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - ii. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - iii. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Sub Messages

Other diseases.

Apart from rabies, there are other diseases your dog gets that can also affect you and your family's health, so it is important to take good care of them. Feeding and handling your dogs well, and getting them regularly dewormed and vaccinated against important diseases, are essential. Let us look at a few of these diseases:

Transmissible Venereal Tumours – (TVT's)

This is a common cancer of the reproductive organs. Both male and female dogs can be infected. It is transmitted by intact or unsterilised infected dogs. The tumours are more commonly seen to involve the external genitalia because mating is the primary mode of transmission. But in some cases, tumours have also been found on the face, nose, mouth and body. TVT lesions on these sites are often due to contact with the fluid that drains from the tumours.

These tumours can be treated easily, but treatment is expensive and can extend for several weeks. The medication is the same as that used for some cancer treatments. If you suspect that your dog has a TVT, get help from a veterinarian or a local animal welfare centre.

The best way to prevent this tumour from spreading from dog to dog is to have dogs sterilised. Sterilised dogs will no longer feel the urge to breed and roam in search of mates. If the tumour is not treated, it will continue to grow in size, possibly affecting adjacent tissues of the body, and can be complicated by secondary bacterial infection. The dog will suffer over a long period of time and die.

The clinical signs include:

- Blood and/or blood-tinged fluid constantly dripping from external genitalia
- Frequent licking of external genitalia
- Swelling of external genitalia

- Protruding cauliflower-like growths of varying size on external genitalia (that may be accompanied by similar growths along the face, body and mucous membranes of the mouth and nose).
- Difficulty in urination

17. Leptospirosis

Basic Message – Rabies is a viral disease that occurs across (*insert area*) and kills both humans and animals. This disease is mostly spread by the bite of a rabid dog and if immediate treatment is not obtained, it will result in a terrible death that cannot be prevented once symptoms start.

To prevent rabies:

- a. Get your dogs vaccinated annually against rabies. Dogs should be reasonably healthy and fit when vaccinated to maximise their response to the vaccine. [If 70% of dogs in your area are consistently vaccinated, the disease will disappear]. (*insert if appropriate* - It is the law that your dogs need to be vaccinated.)
- b. If you are bitten by any animal you must:
 - iv. Wash the wound immediately for 15 minutes with soap and running water.
 - v. Put disinfectant on the wound.
 - vi. GET TO A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY FOR MEDICAL ADVICE AND PROPER TREATMENT!

Sub Messages

Other diseases.

Apart from rabies, there are other diseases your dog gets that can also affect you and your family's health, so it is important to take good care of them. Feeding and handling your dogs well, and getting them regularly dewormed and vaccinated against important diseases, are essential. Let us look at a few of these diseases:

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that affects most animals, including dogs, rats and humans. The most common mode of transmission is via direct contact with urine of infected dogs and rats. It may also be transmitted through bite wounds, placental fluids, milk, and mating. Indirect transmission is possible via prolonged exposure of mucous membranes and broken skin to water that is contaminated with urine of infected animals. Canine leptospirosis is typically manifested as kidney and liver failure. Affected dogs may die if the infection is severe and if the accompanying organ failure is not addressed early enough.

Clinical Signs include:

- Lethargy, weakness, depression
- Fever
- Vomiting and decreased appetite or no appetite
- Abdominal pain, Muscle pain
- Increased water intake
- Increased urination
- Sometimes, decreased urination or no urine due to end-stage kidney failure
- Jaundice or yellow discoloration of the skin and mucous membranes
- A few cases may demonstrate diarrhoea and bleeding tendencies

Dogs with leptospirosis require highly intensive treatment, medical management and supportive care. Health workers and dog owners involved in their treatment and care must take the necessary precautions because leptospirosis is transferable to humans. The use of gloves, facemasks, glasses/goggles and other protective clothing is recommended. Areas and items directly exposed to the patient's urine and blood should be properly disinfected to prevent transmission to other susceptible animals and contamination of the environment. Effective disinfectants are commercially available. Canine leptospirosis can be prevented with an annual vaccination.