

## 70 000 TREATED AFTER ANIMAL BITES

IN KZN alone, around 70 000 people are treated for rabies in response to being bitten by an animal suspected to be rabid, or an unknown animal.

That's according to KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Development rabies project manager Kevin le Roux, who said there had been 53 confirmed cases of rabies in the province this year so far.

He said he projected that the number of positive rabies cases in KZN will have risen to 230 cases by the end of the year at the current

rate it was spreading.

He said the only solution to ending rabies was to vaccinate dogs and cats, thus preventing an outbreak and the possibility of more human deaths.

Le Roux said that although people often worried about monkeys contracting and carrying rabies, the state vet had not diagnosed a monkey with rabies in 42 years.

He said monkeys could become victims of rabies but he said he felt they played no role in the spread of rabies. — Witness Reporter.