



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

28 February 2018

### **A WARNING ON THE NEW SPIKE OF RABIES IN THE PROVINCE**

The Ministry warns the public about the new spike of rabies in the province. The new spike has been detected along the coastal belt of the province affecting South Coast, Durban, ILembe District and King Cetshwayo District (eMpangeni/Richards Bay areas).

We had two cases reported of children having both the dog and cat bites in some of these areas. Unfortunately and regrettably, these two cases have resulted in the loss of lives.

The Department has been on a massive vaccination programme since October last year which began in Ndwedwe, Durban and has proceeded to both South and North coast of the province especially in rural areas. Our State Vets are hard at work in this regard.

Whilst the Department is doing all it can to cover the entire province in its vaccination drive, we are calling for the people of KwaZulu-Natal to do the following:

- They must not entertain strange animals, in particular dogs and cats, in their neighbourhood.
- They must report strange dogs and cats to our nearest local offices or to SPCA for collection.
- Children must be monitored and be instructed to not play with these domesticated animals unless they have been recently vaccinated for rabies.
- In cases where someone has received a dog or cat bite, no matter how minimal it may look, we urge them to immediately approach a clinic or hospital within less than 24 hours for rabies treatment.

For any assistance and details, contact Dr. Kevin Le Roux on 0795062058

**Issued by the KZN DARD Ministry**

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