

1 ZOO NOTIC AND VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES

a Rabies update

In South Africa, from 1 January 2017 to date, there has been a single confirmed report of human rabies: a 5-year-old child from the Eastern Cape Province died on 6 February and was diagnosed on post-mortem.

A recent case of human rabies was confirmed by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in a Namibian child on 11 May 2017. A 7-year-old boy was admitted to Oshakati Hospital with nausea, vomiting, anxiety, hypersalivation, hydrophobia, difficulty with speaking and confusion and died shortly after admission. The patient had

not reported a dog bite but was living in a home with unvaccinated dogs. Human rabies cases in Namibia, like South Africa and most African countries, are predominantly transmitted through rabid dog bites. In Namibia, rabies is prevalent in the northern parts of the country.

More information about rabies exposure risk and post-exposure prophylaxis is available at www.nicd.ac.za

Source: Centre for Emerging, Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases, NICD-NHLS; (januszp@nicd.ac.za)