

About Rabies

Singapore has been rabies-free since 1953. However, we must remain vigilant, particularly when travelling overseas, as rabies can still be found in other countries.



WHAT IS RABIES?

- A deadly viral disease that can infect all mammals
- The virus attacks the nervous system and damages the brain
- If left untreated, infected animals and humans can die from it
- Transmitted through saliva from an infected mammal, usually through a bite or scratch
- Preventable in both humans and animals through vaccination and timely treatment after exposure

SIGNS OF RABIES IN DOGS

- Abnormal behavioural changes, e.g. unprovoked aggression, disorientation, unusual shyness
- Paralysis, trembling, lack of muscle coordination
- Seizures
- Excessive salivation or mouth foaming, difficulty in swallowing

SYMPTOMS OF RABIES IN HUMANS

- Fever, headache, general weakness or discomfort
- Hyperactivity or muscle paralysis
- Seizures
- Confusion, hallucinations, agitation, anxiety, insomnia and hydrophobia (fear of water)

SHOULD I WORRY IF MY PET IS BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY ANOTHER ANIMAL IN SINGAPORE?

As Singapore has been rabies-free since 1953, the risk of your pet being infected with rabies is low. However, you should still bring your pet to a veterinarian for medical attention promptly.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE BEEN BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY AN ANIMAL?

Wash the wound with soap and water for a minimum of 15 minutes immediately after the incident. Should the saliva of an animal come into contact with the eyes, nose and/or mouth, it is important to thoroughly wash the affected areas. After washing, consult a doctor as soon as possible and inform the doctor that you have been bitten or scratched by an animal.

If you suspect that an animal has rabies, report the incident to the Animal & Veterinary Service as soon as possible at 1800-476-1600.



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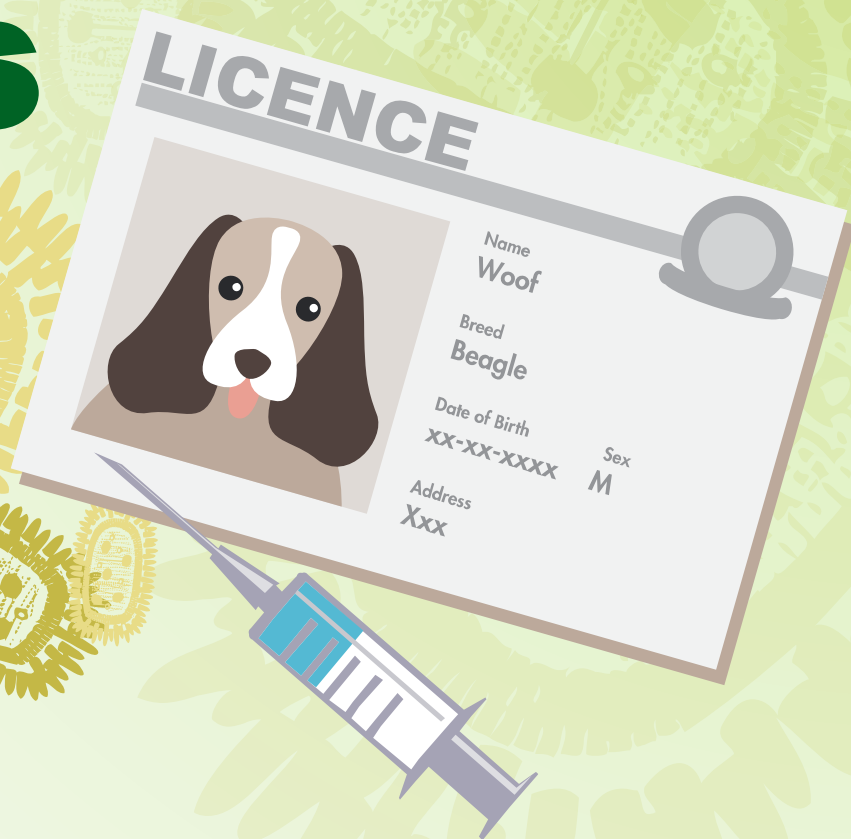
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HOW DO WE KEEP SINGAPORE RABIES-FREE?

The Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS) implements precautionary measures, including dog licensing to ensure traceability and strict import controls to curb the smuggling of animals —which may carry rabies —into Singapore.

AVS also conducts Ops Vax Lyssa, an annual rabies vaccination exercise of dogs at coastal fish farms and selected offshore islands of Singapore. Vaccination is one of our best defence against rabies and by vaccinating at least 70% of the at-risk dog population, we can reduce the risk of a rabies outbreak in Singapore.

YOU TOO CAN DO YOUR PART TO KEEP SINGAPORE RABIES-FREE:

- Obtain pets from reputable and legal sources (i.e. licensed pet shops/farms, shelters)
- Obtain the relevant import permits and health certificates if importing an animal
- Ensure your pet dogs are licensed and microchipped to ensure traceability
- Avoid contact with animals if you are travelling overseas where rabies is present. Discuss with your doctor to see if you require rabies vaccination prior to travel. The rabies vaccines are available at public hospitals and some local clinics that offer travel vaccinations.
- Rabies vaccination is not compulsory for pets in Singapore, but if you are travelling with your pet, other countries may require your pet to be rabies-vaccinated. Speak to your vet to find out more.



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