

Rabies: Health Department Conducts Active Case Detection In Five Villages In Serian

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KUCHING, July 4 (Bernama) -- Ten teams from the Health Department are now in five villages declared as rabies-infected areas in the Serian district to carry out active case detection activities there.

Sarawak Health director Dr Jamilah Hashim said these teams would go from house-to-house or from door-to-door in the longhouses to obtain information if there are residents who had been bitten by dogs since April 1.

"Until yesterday afternoon, investigation revealed that since April 1, 43 people had the experience of being bitten by dogs in the areas concerned but all of them are not suspects of the rabies infection.

"Those having these dog bites will be reviewed by doctors or specialists and the severity of the wounds from the dog bites will be identified. There are three categories, namely without wound; scratch; and open wound," she told a media conference after the Sarawak Disaster Management Committee meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas at Wisma Bapa Malaysia here today.

She said the dog category is classified into three categories, namely household dogs; mixed breed of household dogs and wild dogs; and wild dogs.

Dr Jamilah said cases of rabies infection only involved animal bites and there had never been a case involving human-to-human infection.

Three children in the Serian District were infected by rabies, as was notified by the Sarawak General Hospital here on June 22.

Two of the children, a four-year-old boy and his six-year-old sister, died today. The third victim, a seven-year-old girl, is in critical condition.

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