Trend in the Philippines

A total of 1176 cases have been reported from January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (Fig. 1). Cases from 2014 to 2017 ranges from 245 to 266 with an average of 258 cases each year. As of June 30, 2018, one hundred forty-four (144) cases have been reported. This figure represents 4% decrease compared to the same period last year (N=150).

Only 4% (n=6) of the reported cases was laboratory confirmed, 92% (n=132) were classified probable or having exposure to suspected rabid animal while the remaining 4% (n=6) were suspect cases (Fig 2).

Geographic Distribution

More than half (54%) of cases from January 1, 2014 to June 30,2018 were from the following regions: Region 03 (16%); Region 04A (15%), Region 12 (9%); Region 05 (7%) , and Region 01 (7%) while the remaining 46% came from the rest of the regions in the country (Table 1). For 2018, Region 03 comprises more than a quarter (26%) of cases in the country followed by Region 04A (16%), and Region 07 (10%).

One (1) rabies case was reported from a province declared as “Rabies Free Area, Marinduque. Investigation validated that the death was classified as probable rabies case only since no laboratory confirmation has been performed. It was also revealed in the investigation that the suspected biting dog is still alive and the case has history of travel to other places in the country before his hospitalization in which exposure to a rabid animal may had occur.

Profile of Cases (2018)

73% (n=106) were males with age ranging from 3 years old to 87 years old with median age of 42 years old.

92% (n=133) of cases were due to exposure to suspected Rabid Dogs, followed by Cats (3%). Almost half (49%) were domesticatec (pet) while 38% were stray. Four (4) out of 144 rabies cases were bitten by a dog vaccinated against rabies.

6% (n=14) received post exposure prophylaxis vaccine however only 1% completed the recommended dosage. Only 6% received passive immunization (Rabies Immuno Globulin or RIG).

Interval of days from date of bite (exposure) to vaccination ranges from 1 day to 120 days with median interval if 38 days. Cases reported have died on the same day as the day of hospitalization.