



THREAT OF RABIES IN MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS

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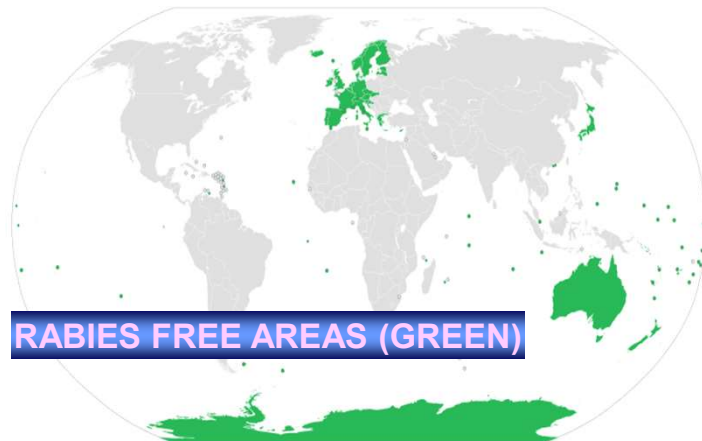
INTRODUCTION

- Rabies is a 100% fatal neurotropic zoonosis
- One death occurs every 9 minutes worldwide
- >95% deaths occur in Asia and Africa
- India is the world rabies capital- 20000/50000 deaths
- Wild animals have very high viral load- Class III bites
- South Asia and South East Asia is biodiverse
- Limited terrain/forest/animal surveillance
- Widespread military deployments amidst wolf populations

METHODS

- Ambispective population base surveillance of animal bite risk
- Remote forested mountainous location at 2700m/ 9000 feet
- Types of human-animal interactions noted
- Animal attack incidence was noted
- Human attitude and behaviour towards animals was noted

Rabies, countries or areas at risk



RESULTS

- Widespread forested hilly and mountainous area of 2500 sq km
- Valleys and peaks have scattered troops deployments
- Scattered villages, no forest officials in the area
- No permanent roads, no markets, no telecommunication
- People have friendly interactions with stray animals (dogs)
- People are not knowledgeable about risk of animal bites
- People are not knowledgeable about lethality of rabies
- People casually touch or feed or play with stray animals
- Chance of animal attacks in civilians more than troops

DISCUSSION

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- Mandatory vaccination of pets not very effective

CONCLUSION

- Wolf-human interactions require diligent efforts at threat assessment, mitigation measures and military responses under One-Health approach
- Real-time wildlife surveillance and containment systems through fencing, thermal-imaging, zoonotic-diseases and vector-surveillance to characterize the spatiotemporal patterns of wildlife ethology and ecosystems
- Rabies vaccine/immunoglobulin may not be universally available

RABIES RESERVOIRS



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