



Division Memorandum

DM No. 22, s. 2018

STRENGTHENING RABIES AWARENESS IN SCHOOLS

To: Asst. Schools Division Superintendents, Curriculum Implementation Division, School Governance and Operations Division, Public School District Supervisors, Elementary and Secondary School Heads, School Health Personnel

1. This office received a report from the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian regarding the dog biting incidents that happened inside the school premises in Quezon Province.
2. The said dogs were examined and confirmed to be rabies positive by the laboratory.
3. Rabies refers to a highly fatal disease caused by a lyssa virus, transmitted mainly through the bite of an infected animal and is characterized by muscle paralysis, hydrophobia, aerophobia, and other neurological manifestations.
4. Republic Act No. 9842, otherwise known as the "**Anti-Rabies Act of 2007**" is an act providing for the control and elimination of human and animal rabies, prescribing penalties for violation thereof and appropriating funds therefor.
5. As stated in Section 5 **Responsibilities of Pet Owners** of RA No. 9842 – All pet owners shall be required to:
 - (a) **Have their dog regularly vaccinated against rabies** and maintain a registration card which shall contain all vaccinations conducted on their dog for accurate record purposes.
 - (b) Submit their dogs for mandatory registration.
 - (c) **Maintain control over their dog and not allow it to roam the streets or any public place without a leash.**
 - (d) Be a responsible owner by providing their dog with proper grooming, adequate food and clean shelter.
 - (e) Within twenty-four (24) hours, report immediately any dog biting incident to the concerned officials for investigation or for any appropriate action and place such dog under observation by a government or private veterinarian.
 - (f) Assist the dog bite victim immediately and shoulder the medical expenses incurred and other incidental expenses relative to the victim's injuries.

6. As stated in Section 6. **Responsibilities of Government Agencies** of RA No. 9842 –
The following government agencies, which shall jointly implement the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program, shall be tasked to:

C. Department of Education

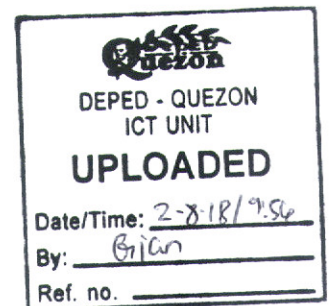
- (1) Strengthen the rabies education program through school health teaching/curriculum.
- (2) Assist in the dog mass immunization campaigns in the community.
- (3) Encourage collaborative activities with the DA, DOH, DILG, DENR, NGOs, POs and other concerned sectors.
- (4) Integrate proper information and education on responsible pet ownership in the relevant subjects in the elementary and high school levels.

7. In response to the incident report, to prevent and control this fatal disease and in celebration of the **Rabies Awareness Month this March**, all concerned are hereby advised to:

- strengthen rabies awareness and responsible pet ownership through non – formal health teachings and/or inclusion in the curriculum.
- **eliminate dogs and cats in the school premises.**

8. For immediate dissemination and strict compliance.


MERTHEL M. EVARDOME, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent



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