

Editorial

From the Editor's Desk

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In a span of three months, the pending issue of Vol. 26, No. 2, 2024, could be released online on April 30, 2025, due to the sincere efforts of the authors, reviewers, advisors, office bearers of APCRI, and the team from ADR publications. It is also hosted on the website of the APCRI, and as a free, open-access journal, the articles can be freely downloaded from there. Soon thereafter, in the next two months, the current issue of 2025, Vol. 27, No.1, is ready for launch on 12th July, 2025, at the 25th conference of the APCRI at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. This issue has, besides from the editor's desk, one invited guest editorial, two research articles, a viewpoint and three case reports for the readers. The feedback from the readers about the two issues of the journal is welcome. It is now planned to get the journal indexed in DOAJ, PubMed and EMBASE/Scopus. To encourage authors, there will be no article processing charges (APC) from the next issue onwards of the journal, Vol. 27. No.2, due in December, 2025. Likewise, the 2025 issue of the newsletter is being brought out by the editorial team for release in the same conference.

Despite India being a major producer and exporter of rabies biologicals, viz. rabies vaccines, equine rabies immunoglobulins, and rabies monoclonal antibodies, there are still human rabies deaths in the country that are preventable with these biologicals, provided these are given timely and correctly to rabies-exposed individuals. Hence, it is recommended that all human rabies deaths, besides being now notifiable, shall undergo mandatory death audits, the reports made public, and remedial measures undertaken to prevent such mishaps in the future shall be in the public domain.

Next is the problem of stray dogs in certain areas where their presence and aggression are undesirable. Like in hospitals, educational institutions, workplaces, places of worship, etc., by attacking the persons in these premises, the offending dogs pose a perennial threat to the health and lives of the people over there. Under the animal birth control (ABC) program, even if these aggressive dogs are picked up for sterilisation (and vaccination), still, as per the present ABC guidelines, post-sterilisation and vaccination, the dogs are released back in the same premises. This does not solve the problem. Hence, the concerned authorities shall revise the ABC rules to exempt the dogs picked up from certain specified areas; post-surgery, they shall not be released back in the same area but instead will be kept in dog shelters or dog parks or any other suitable arrangement made such that, they do not

pose any danger to humans. It is important that, premises of these places are kept free from stray dogs to ensure the safety of persons over there.

Last but not the least , the theme of this year's World Rabies Day (WRD) 2025, to be observed on September 28, is "Act Now: You, Me, Community". The details are available from the website of Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) vide <https://www.rabiesalliance.org/news/world-rabies-day-2025-time-act-now>. It is sincerely hoped that the members of APCRI shall observe the WRD in a befitting manner in their institutions and other places and raise the rabies awareness that shall support achieving the goal of zero by 30.

Lastly, the continued technical support and guidance provided during this academic journey by two publication research analysts of ADR Publications namely, Ms. Saraswati Bhadauriya and Ms. Deeksha Singh Jadon are worth mentioning. Above all, I thank Dr M K Sudarshan, Founder President of APCRI who mentored me in this endeavour.

Professor (Dr) Tanushree Mondal

Editor