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**ANALYSIS OF THE EPIZOOTIC SITUATION OF RABIES IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

The purpose of this work was to study the epizootic situation of rabies and to establish the prevailing type of epizootics on the territory of the Russian Federation, as well as to identify the most disadvantaeus regions for the disease. The paper presents a retrospective analysis of the epizootic situation of animal rabies on the territory of the Russian Federation in 2019-2020. The species structure of rabies cases among animals during this period has been studied. Rabies is one of the oldest and most dangerous infectious diseases. According to WHO, it is one of the five zoonoses that cause the greatest economic damage, is a constant threat to human and animal life, and is also one of the most important international criteria (WHO, FAO, OIE) for assessing the biological and environmental safety of the human habitat.

The data of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Moscow), the Federal State Budgetary Institution "Veterinary Center" (Moscow) and the Information and Analytical Center of the Veterinary Supervision Department of the Federal State Budgetary Institution "ARRIAH" (Vladimir) served as the research material (Table 1)

**Keywords:** Rabies virus, epizootic situation, analysis, dysfunctional point, vaccination prevention

Rabies is an acute infectious disease of warm-blooded animals characterized by damage to the central nervous system, aggressive behaviour, salivation and paralysis. Infection of warm-blooded animals and humans leads to a 100% fatal outcome. Effective therapy for rabies has not been developed. The Russian Federation is permanently dysfunctional in animal rabies.

The efficiency and effectiveness of ant epizootic and preventive activities primarily depends on whether veterinary specialists have reliable and complete information about the epizootic situation in the entrusted and adjacent territories to prevent the spread of the disease.

Taking into account the nature of the reservoir of the causative agent of rabies, epizootics of the natural type are distinguished (the disease is spread by wild carnivorous animals) and urban type (the sources of the virus and the distributors of the disease are stray dogs and cats, the number of which determines the scale of epizootics).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year of the disease | Quarter | Disadvantaged points | Animals got sick and fell | | |
| Pets | wild animals | farm animals |
| 2020 | 1 | 411 | 189 | 250 | 32 |
| 2 | 287 | 156 | 109 | 28 |
| 3 | 362 | 189 | 162 | 36 |
| 4 | 392 | 195 | 167 | 66 |
| In total, in 2020, 1,452 rabies-affected spot were registered in the Russian Federation, where 1,579 animals fell ill. | | | | | |
| 2019 | 1 | 338 | 170 | 167 | 34 |
| 2 | 247 | 129 | 120 | 29 |
| 3 | 241 | 114 | 114 | 13 |
| 4 | 355 | 162 | 179 | 15 |
| In total, in 2019, 1,181 rabies-affected spot were registered in the Russian Federation, where 1,274 animals fell ill. | | | | | |

The largest number of disadvantaged settlements: registered in 2020 - in the Saratov 142), Penza (106) and Moscow (95) regions;

The largest number of disadvantaged settlements in 2019 was registered in the Moscow region (104).

Analyzing the data in the table, it can be judged that the urban type of the spread of the disease has recently prevailed on the territory of the Russian Federation. This is primarily due to the insufficient level of control over the number of stray animals, since in the conditions of natural epizootics, dogs, with a high population density of unvaccinated individuals, are capable of actively maintaining the circulation of the virus and are a significant risk factor for human infection. Everywhere it is necessary to pay special attention to the sanitary and educational work of the population, since ignorance is the reason for careless treatment of animals and refusal of medical care after contact with animals, especially with pets - dogs and cats.

According to the Federal Service for Supervision of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare (Rospotrebnadzor), in 2019, more than 353 thousand people applied to medical organizations about bites, salivation and scratching by animals, including more than 98 thousand children under 14 years old. Two cases of hydrophobia have been reported.

During 2020, more than 177 thousand people applied to medical organizations about bites.

It has been established that the territories of the North Caucasus, Southern, Central and Volga Federal Districts, the south of the Ural, Siberian and Far Eastern Federal Districts continue to remain the zones of the greatest risk of human and animal rabies infection. Regions with an extremely high risk of rabies infection are the Lipetsk, Vladimir, Moscow and Yaroslavl regions.

A very high and high risk of rabies infection was detected in all regions of the North Caucasus, Southern, Central and Volga Federal Districts, in the south of the Urals and Western Siberia. The Kaliningrad region acts as a zone of medium epidemiological danger of rabies due to the availability of conditions for the activation of the epizootic process and demonstrates the success of the use of oral vaccination of wild predators as a method of controlling the state of natural foci of infection.

There is a danger of human infection with rabies in the Arctic natural focal region, especially in the territory of the Nenets Autonomous Okrug, for which the average risk of rabies infection has been determined.

Conclusions: Rabies poses a serious threat to human and animal health. Despite the efforts made, in 2019, 2 people died from this disease and about 400 thousand received anti-labor assistance. Such figures signal the insufficient scale of educational work and the need to develop and implement additional measures to prevent rabies.

Among such measures, in addition to the requirements of the sanitary rules on the mandatory marking of vaccination against rabies in the veterinary certificate when exporting an animal outside the region, the need to strengthen the control of movements of non-vaccinated susceptible animals within the region (territory, republic).

The data obtained confirm the relevance of the measures laid down in the "Complex of joint actions of the CIS member states on the prevention and control of rabies for the period up to 2025.", the implementation of which will achieve epizootic well-being in target animal populations.

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