

AUGUST 2026 NE MONTHLY REPORT



HIGHLIGHTS

	GTA
ARV ADMINISTERED	1414
RABIES HOTLINE CALLS	69
INDIVIDUALS EDUCATED	1018
IBCM CASES	10
SUSPECTED RABID ANIMALS	0
CARCASSES TESTED FOR LFA	21
LFA POSITIVE	7
BRAIN SAMPLES COLLECTED FOR DFA	23
DFA TEST CONDUCTED	22
DFA POSITIVE	7
X-RAY	10

GTA

1,367 DOGS REACHED ACROSS THE HILLS

Between 25 July and 24 August, the team vaccinated 1,367 dogs across Darjeeling District—1,023 in the rural and tea-garden communities of Mirik Subdivision and 278 across Darjeeling Municipality. From dispersed settlements and difficult hill terrain to border-influenced communities, the campaign continued to extend vaccination beyond the easily accessible areas.



GTA

RRT REACHING EVERY DOG, ACROSS EVERY TERRAIN



GTA

**RRT REACHING EVERY DOG,
ACROSS EVERY TERRAIN**



GTA

RRT REACHING EVERY DOG, ACROSS EVERY TERRAIN



MR JUNIOR RESEARCH OFFICER GTA FIELD VISIT & INTERACTION WITH RRT MEMBERS



GTA

MR JUNIOR RESEARCH OFFICER FIELD VISIT & INTERACTION WITH RRT MEMBERS



GTA

MR JUNIOR RESEARCH OFFICER FIELD VISIT TO DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER AND THE TEAM



GTA **TWO RABIES CASES, ONE** **COMMUNITY: PESHOK RESPONDS**

Peshok reported two confirmed canine rabies cases within the same locality in July and August. Following the first confirmation, exposed dogs and people were identified and preventive measures initiated; when a second epidemiologically linked dog tested positive on 14 August, the team immediately mobilised for investigation and further control measures. The response has now expanded to area-wide vaccination, continued surveillance, ABC and community awareness to prevent further transmission.



GTA TWO RABIES CASES, ONE COMMUNITY: PESHOK RESPONDS



GTA

A SUSPECTED CASE, CONFIRMED ON THE SPOT

When a sick dog in Peshok died before the response team reached the site, permission was obtained to collect a brain sample and an on-site LFA test confirmed rabies positive. The rapid confirmation allowed the team to immediately identify exposed animals and people, continue PEP, and strengthen surveillance in the affected area—demonstrating the value of having local diagnostic capacity during an outbreak response.



WHEN A LEOPARD BITE BECAME GTA A RABIES INVESTIGATION

A community dog severely bitten by a leopard in Sonada developed salivation, restlessness and abnormal behaviour, prompting the Rabies Hotline and veterinary team to treat the case as a potential rabies risk. The dog was brought to the shelter for observation but subsequently died and tested positive for rabies by LFA. The team followed up with the caller and checked for possible human or animal exposures, highlighting the importance of rapid investigation where wildlife, domestic animals and communities intersect.



WHEN A LEOPARD BITE BECAME GTA A RABIES INVESTIGATION



FOLLOWING THE BITE BEYOND THE FIRST RESPONSE

The team followed up with a bite victim in Mahanadi, Kurseong, who had been associated with a confirmed rabid-dog incident. During the visit, her medical records confirmed that she had completed the prescribed PEP course, while the interview also captured the emotional impact of losing her dog after a leopard bite. The interaction reinforced that rabies response extends beyond laboratory confirmation and vaccination to ensuring that affected people receive appropriate care and sensitive follow-up.



FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE GTA COMMUNITY

At Temple of Wisdom School in Mirik, 52 students and 2 teachers took part in a rabies awareness session covering transmission, bite prevention, wound washing and timely post-exposure treatment. The interactive session also addressed common misconceptions, with students encouraged to carry accurate rabies-prevention messages beyond the classroom and into their families and communities.



GTA

PREPARING COMMUNITIES BEFORE THE VACCINATION TEAM ARRIVES

Before the Darjeeling Municipality vaccination drive, awareness sessions were conducted across Wards 1–30, reaching residents with information on rabies prevention, bite management and the importance of dog vaccination. The sessions also helped mobilise communities to identify unvaccinated dogs and cooperate with the vaccination teams —linking awareness directly to action on the ground.



During the MR Junior Research Officer's field visit, the team worked together across Darjeeling and Kalimpong to strengthen IBCM surveillance, review case documentation and improve Clappia-based reporting. A total of 10 IBCM cases were investigated during the month—7 retrospective and 3 prospective cases. Despite a landslide preventing access to one retrospective case site in Reshi, Sikkim, the team adapted by conducting the interview telephonically, ensuring that the case was documented and the surveillance process continued.



GTA

IBCM: 10 CASES INVESTIGATED, STRENGTHENING RABIES SURVEILLANCE



GTA

IBCM: 10 CASES INVESTIGATED, STRENGTHENING RABIES SURVEILLANCE

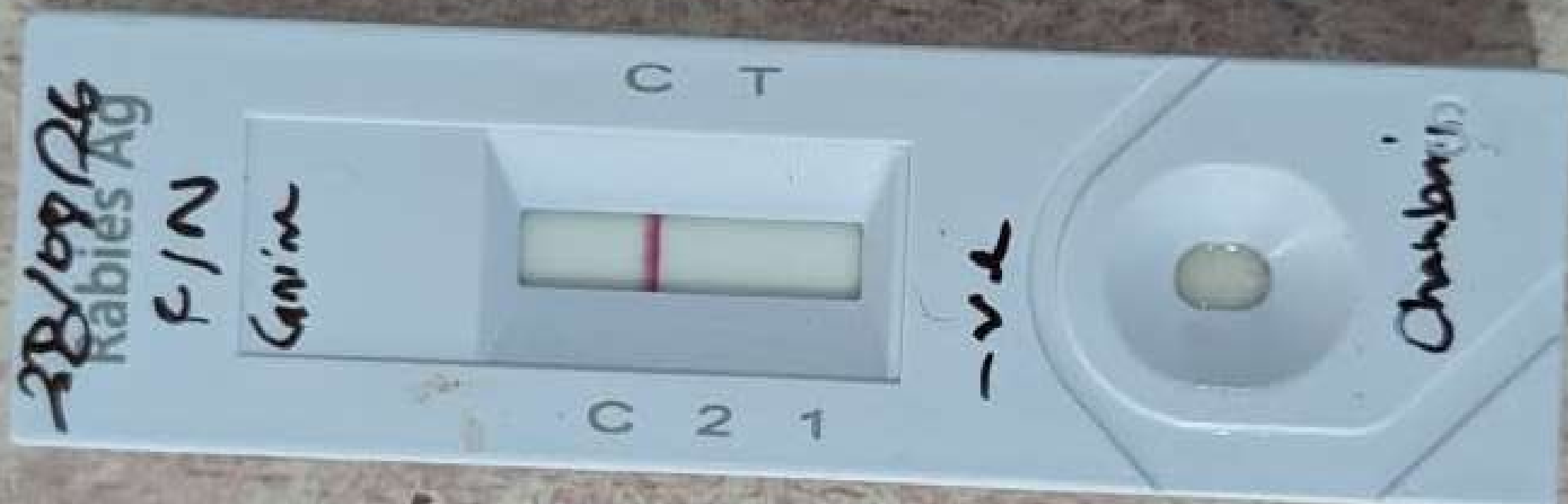


Dipak Das, Project Manager, Mission Rabies Bhubaneswar, visited the Darjeeling project from 27th–31st August for project orientation, operational briefing and hands-on learning across programme management, rabies surveillance, LFA testing, brain sample collection, hotline management, IBCM and field vaccination activities. From 1st September onwards, he will join the team for the Darjeeling Mass Dog Vaccination Campaign 2026, gaining further practical exposure to large-scale field operations.



GTA

DGAS-MR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE & CAPACITY BUILDING



During August, the X-ray facility conducted radiography for 10 patients—9 dogs and 1 cat.

A 6-year-old female Lhasa Apso presented in critical condition with severe systemic distress, abdominal breathing, pale gums, vomiting and lateral recumbency. Prompt abdominal X-ray revealed a markedly enlarged, fluid-filled uterus, leading to the diagnosis of pyometra and enabling immediate emergency surgery.



GTA

FROM CRITICAL COLLAPSE TO A LIFE- SAVING DIAGNOSIS

The dog underwent an emergency ovariohysterectomy, during which a ruptured pyometra with extensive abdominal contamination was confirmed. Following surgery, she received intensive supportive care for septic shock, including fluid therapy, pain management and broad-spectrum antibiotics. By Day 5, she was eating voluntarily, responsive, wagging her tail and regaining normal mobility.



Darjeeling, West Bengal, India

170-234, Kothi Gaon, Nalbangaon, Darjeeling,
West Bengal 734105, India

Lat: 27.056731

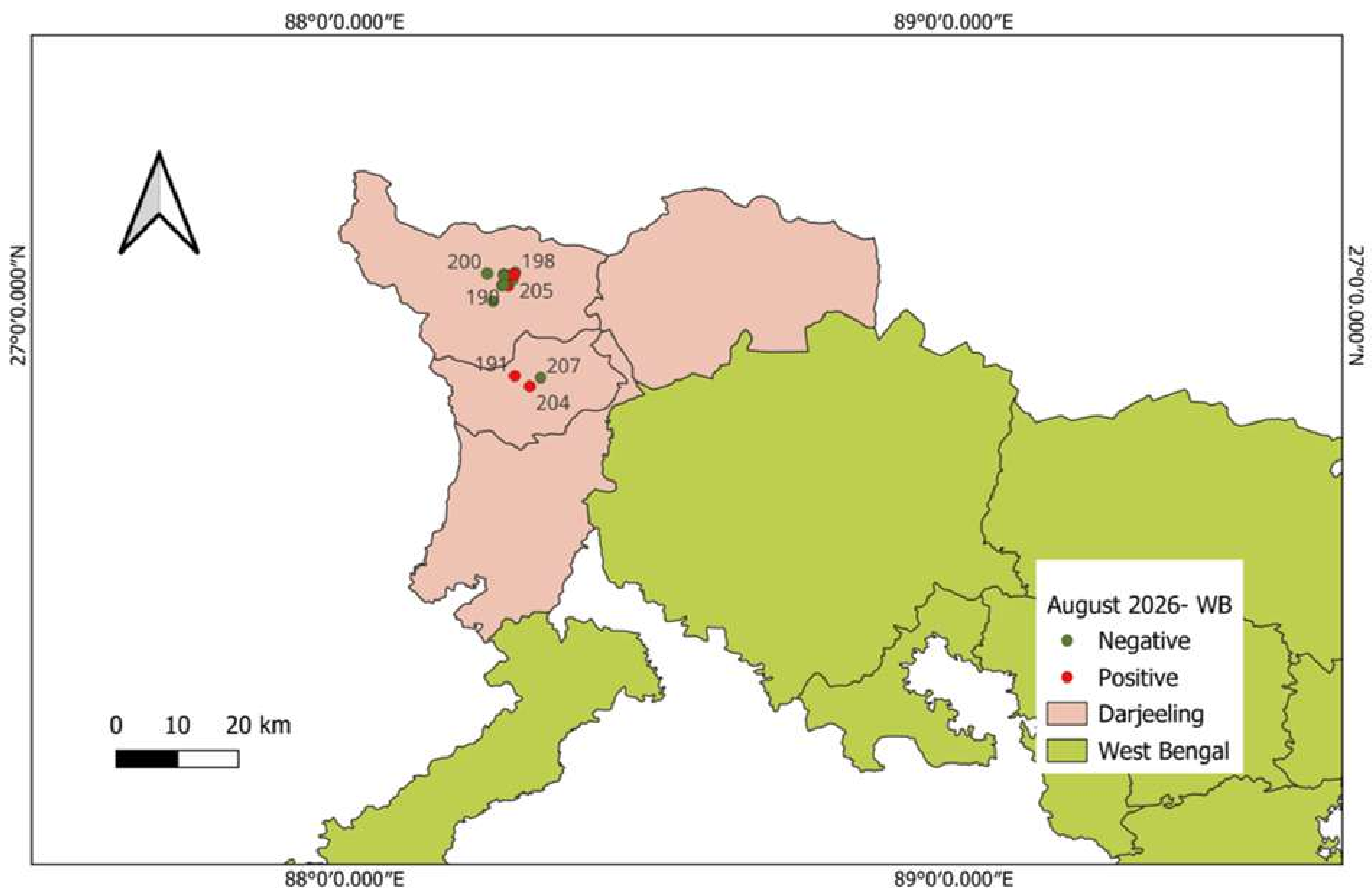
Long: 88.279901

20/08/2026 01:25 PM

AS

ANIMAL RABIES DIAGNOSIS LABORATORY (ARDL)

During August 2026, the Animal Rabies Diagnosis Laboratory tested 24 brain samples, of which 8 were confirmed positive and 16 were negative. Samples were received from Assam and West Bengal, with West Bengal contributing the majority of submissions.



AS

ALL POSITIVE SAMPLES WERE FROM DOGS

Of the 23 samples for which species-wise details were available, dogs accounted for 19 samples, with 8 testing positive (42.10%). All 4 cat samples were negative. One West Bengal sample was excluded from the species-wise analysis because its details were unavailable.

Species-wise distribution of brain samples (August, 2026)

