

PRESS RELEASE



Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive Launched in West Jaintia Hills

On the occasion of World Rabies Day 2026

Jowai, 28th September, 2026: The Office of the District Medical & Health Officer, in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, the Office of the District Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Officer and Just Be Friendly (JBF) Trust under Mission Rabies, launched an anti-rabies vaccination drive for stray dogs today at the conference hall of the office of DMHO, Jowai. As part of the drive, anti-rabies vaccination of stray dogs was also carried out.



The three-day drive, being held from 28th to 30th September, 2026, aim to strengthen rabies prevention and control through a coordinated - One Health Approach, with a goal of contributing towards rabies elimination.

Dr. Bahiam Kuper C Nongrum, District Surveillance Officer (IDSP) & District Nodal Officer, NRCP, emphasised that rabies can be prevented through collective action involving both animal and human health interventions. He highlighted the importance of dogs' vaccination, responsible pet ownership, animal population management, timely treatment and public awareness. He noted that vaccinating around 70 per cent of the dog population in an area can significantly reduce the risk of human rabies.

Dr. Nongrum also urged the public to take immediate action following an animal bite or scratch by washing the wounds thoroughly with soap and running water for at least 15 minutes and to seek medical attention at the nearest health facility. He further advised the people to complete all recommended doses of post exposure vaccination.



Dr Shishankar, JBF Trust, (Mission Rabies) emphasised the need for strong collaboration among Health and Veterinary Department, District Administration localities, NGOs and the community to effectively prevent and eliminate rabies. Highlighting the One Health approach, he stressed the importance of rabies surveillance laboratory diagnosis, timely submission of samples from suspected animals and effective implementation of Animal Birth Control (ABC) measures.

He also stressed the importance of public awareness and community participation urging all stakeholders to work together and strengthen coordinated efforts towards rabies prevention and elimination in West Jaintia Hills.



Dr. R. Bamon from the District Veterinary Department highlighted the key role of the department in providing veterinary services to animal across the district. She informed that the department has one veterinary hospital and 15 veterinary dispensaries catering to dogs, cats, livestock and Poultry.

She further informed that the department conducts regular vaccination drive and during 2025-2026, around 2500 animals were vaccinated.



Dr. Bamon appealed to the public, particularly pet owners to cooperate with the Veterinary Department by bringing their pet for regular vaccination and making use of the veterinary facilities available. She also urged the public to promptly report suspected cases of rabies, concerns involving stray dogs and animal bite incidents to the concern authorities, stressing that early action can save both human and animal lives.

The programme was chaired by Dr. P Shylla, District Medical and Health Officer, West Jaintia Hills, Jowai