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REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP ON TRAINING OF VETERINARIANS IN BRAIN SAMPLING AND RABIES DIAGNOSIS TECHNIQUES

KVAFSU - CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, WOAH Reference Laboratory for Rabies, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Bengaluru - India

&

Commonwealth Veterinary Association

24 September 2026 | Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

1. Organizing Institutions

The workshop on “Training of Veterinarians in Brain Sampling and Rabies Diagnosis Techniques” was jointly organized by the KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory (KVAFSU–CVA RDL), WOAH Reference Laboratory for Rabies, Veterinary College, Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bengaluru, and Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) supported by Lions Club, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, India.

2. Introduction

The hands on experience based training program was held on 24th September 2026 at Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka. The workshop was designed to provide veterinarians with theoretical knowledge and importantly practical exposure in rabies diagnosis, with particular emphasis on brain sampling through Occipital foramen approach, specimen handling, packing, transportation and laboratory diagnostic techniques.

The programme was structured to include an inaugural session, expert lectures, practical demonstrations, hands-on training, a visit to the KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory for practical exposure on Direct Fluorescent Antibody assay (DFA), Direct Rapid Immunohistochemical Test (dRIT) and Lateral Flow Assay (LFA) and an interactive closing session. The workshop aimed to strengthen the technical knowledge and practical skills of veterinarians in rabies specimen collection and diagnostic procedures.

3. Participants

A total of 16 participants attended the training workshop, comprising veterinarians from animal welfare organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (KARUNA, CUPA, COVA), Mysore Zoo, Bannerghatta Biological park, Veterinarians from private veterinary practitioners and Post Graduate students, PhD scholars from Dept. of Veterinary Pathology and Clinical Medicine, Veterinary College, Bengaluru.

The participation of veterinarians from diverse professional background, along with veterinary students, provided an opportunity for knowledge sharing and interaction on rabies diagnosis, brain sampling, specimen handling and laboratory diagnostic techniques. The workshop was designed to enhance their theoretical understanding and practical skills in rabies diagnosis and surveillance.

4. Inaugural Session

The workshop commenced with registration and instructions for participants from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., coordinated by Ms. Navya, S. and Ms. Kavitha, G. M. of the KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory.

The inaugural session began at 9:30 a.m. with ‘Naada Geete’, followed by the welcome address by Dr. Shrikrishna Isloor, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary College, Bengaluru, and Laboratory Director, KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory. He welcomed the dignitaries, resource persons and participants and introduced the objectives and significance of the training programme.

This was followed by self-introduction of the participants from 9:40 to 9:50 a.m., providing an opportunity for interaction and familiarization among the participants.

The dignitaries addressed from 9:50 to 10:05 a.m. Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Past President and Executive Director, CVA, was among the distinguished guests. Dr. P. T. Ramesh, Registrar, KVAFSU, Bidar, and Mr. Keshavulu, President, Lions Club of Bengaluru, Basavanagudi, address the gathering.

The presidential address was delivered by Dr. R. Nagaraja, Dean, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bengaluru, from 10:05 to 10:10 a.m.

Dr. R. Sharada, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary College, Gadag, KVAFSU, and Quality Manager, KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, proposed the vote of thanks from 10:10 to 10:15 a.m. The inaugural session concluded with the National Anthem, followed by hi-tea and a group photo session from 10:15 to 10:30 a.m.





Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Past President & Executive Director, CVA addressing



Dr. P.T. Ramesh, Registrar, KVAFSU



Mr. Keshavulu, President, Lions Club



Dr. R. Nagaraja, Dean, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bengaluru delivering Presidential address

5. Technical Sessions

The technical programme commenced at 10:30 a.m. with expert lectures addressing the importance of rabies control, clinical aspects of the disease and laboratory diagnostic procedures.

5.1. The Role of CVA in Rabies Training Programmes

Dr. S.Abdul Rahman, delivered a lecture on “The Role of CVA in Rabies Training Programmes” from 10:30 to 10:55 a.m. The session highlighted the role of the CVA in veterinary capacity building, professional training and strengthening rabies control initiatives.

5.2. A Clinical Perspective on Rabies and Its Implications

From 10:55 to 11:15 a.m., Dr. M.A. Kshama, Professor and Head, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary College, Bengaluru, delivered a lecture on “A Clinical Perspective on Rabies and Its Implications.” The session provided insights into the clinical presentation of rabies, its implications for animal and public health, and the importance of timely recognition and appropriate diagnostic procedures.



5.3. Brain Sampling, Packing, Transportation and Diagnosis of Rabies

The major technical session, scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., was conducted by Dr. Shrikrishna Isloor.

The session, titled “Brain Sampling, Packing, Transportation and Diagnosis of Rabies,” covered essential procedures involved in rabies specimen collection and laboratory diagnosis. The topics included appropriate brain sampling techniques, safe specimen handling, packaging, transportation requirements and an overview of laboratory diagnostic methods.

The session enlightened veterinarians with appropriate specimen collection and handling practices, which are important for reliable laboratory diagnosis and biosafety.



Lunch was arranged from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Krishna Guest House in the campus.

6. Practical Demonstration and Hands-on Training

A practical demonstration and hands-on training session was scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Department of Anatomy, Veterinary College, Bengaluru.

The practical session provided participants with exposure to the following procedures:

- Occipital foramen based brain sampling techniques for rabies diagnosis.
- Safe handling, packing and transportation of brain specimens.
- Demonstration and hands-on training in the lateral flow assay (LFA).
- Familiarization with specimen processing and diagnostic procedures.

The practical session was handled by Mr. Dilip L., Ms. Kavitha G.M., Ms. Navya S., Dr. Sharada, R. and Dr. Isloor. The session complemented the morning session through practical demonstrations and supervised hands-on learning.



7. Visit to the KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory

A laboratory visit was scheduled from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory.

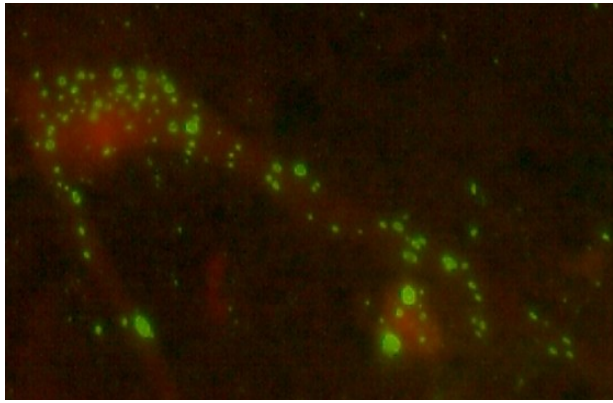
The visit was designed to familiarize participants with the laboratory facilities and demonstrate the interpretation of diagnostic slides using:

- Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA) test: Demonstration and observation of slides used in rabies diagnosis.
- Direct Rapid Immunohistochemical Test (dRIT): Observation of prepared slides and familiarisation with the diagnostic technique.

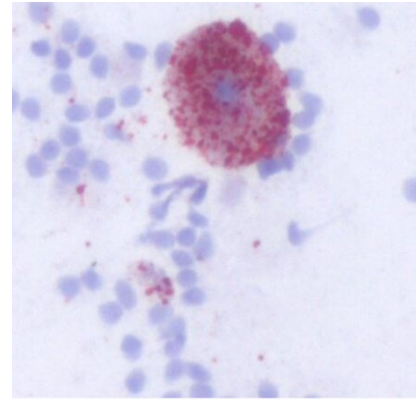
The session was conducted by Mr.Dilip L., Ms.Kavitha G. M., Ms.Navya S., Dr. Sharada R. and Dr. Shrikrishna Isloor. The laboratory visit was intended to provide participants with additional exposure to established rabies diagnostic techniques and laboratory procedures.



LFA of a rabid dog brain – Two Red lines at T and C positions



DFA of a rabid dog brain – apple green inclusions of rabies virus



dRIT of a rabid dog brain – Brick red inclusions of rabies virus

8. Interaction and Closing Session

The final session was scheduled from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. in Dr. R. D. Nanjaiah Hall. It was planned as an interactive session for participants to discuss the technical topics covered during the workshop, clarify queries and exchange professional experiences relating to rabies diagnosis and specimen handling. The certificates were issued to all the participants.

The programme concluded with closing remarks and acknowledgements.

9. Key Highlights of the Workshop

The workshop programme incorporated the following major components:

1. Expert lectures: Presentations on the role of CVA in rabies training and the clinical aspects and implications of rabies.
2. Technical training: Instruction on brain sampling, specimen packing, transportation and rabies diagnosis.
3. Hands-on practical exposure: Demonstration and practical training in brain sampling, specimen handling and the lateral flow assay.
4. Laboratory exposure: A scheduled visit to the KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, including observation of LFA, DFA and dRIT slides.
5. Professional interaction: Opportunities for participant introductions, technical discussions and interaction with resource persons.

10. Conclusion

The workshop was designed as a comprehensive, one-day capacity-building programme for veterinarians, integrating theoretical instruction with practical demonstrations and laboratory exposure in rabies diagnosis. The programme covered the clinical significance of rabies, brain sampling, specimen handling, packing, transportation and diagnostic techniques, including LFA, DFA and dRIT.

The involvement of the KVAFSU–CVA Rabies Diagnostic Laboratory, a WOA Reference Laboratory for Rabies, and the CVA provided an institutional framework for the planned technical training. All the participants opined that the combination of expert lectures, hands-

on sessions and laboratory demonstrations enhanced their knowledge and practical competencies in rabies specimen collection and diagnosis, thereby supporting veterinary diagnostic capacity and rabies surveillance efforts.