

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES



MEDIA RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 22 OCTOBER 2004

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: RABIES ALERT!!!

The 11 year old boy who was admitted to Murchison Hospital on Wednesday, 20 October 2004 died yesterday evening. The boy showed signs and symptoms of rabies on his admission and it can be confirmed that he died from rabies.

This has increased to two the number of people who have died from the disease. The first victim was a 12 year old boy who was admitted to Murchison Hospital on Monday 4th of October 2004 and died the following day.

The deceased were from KwaMachi Tribal Authority at Mbongweni, between Harding and Ezingolweni.

Health workers, Environmental Officers, staff from Communicable Disease Control and State Veterinary Services are monitoring the situation and have it under control. An intensive campaign is under way to create public awareness about the disease. The department would like to urge the public to seek medical assistance immediately when someone has been bitten or scratched by a cat or a dog. This will ensure that they get therapy and treatment as early as possible thus increasing the chances of curing the disease.

ENDS

For more information please contact Mrs Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943 or (033) 395 2731

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