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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.



Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
3271	28.01.2016	01.02.2016	Pune Maharashtra	www.timesofindia.com/English http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Ahmednagar-woman-bitten-by-wild-cat-dies-of-rabies/articleshow/50801021.cms
Title:	Ahmednagar woman bitten by wild cat, dies of rabies in Pune, Maharashtra			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU- Pune , SSU- Maharashtra			

45-year-old woman succumbed to rabies in the city after she was bitten by a wild cat on January 28. This is the third rabies casualty registered in Pune so far this year. Since animal bites can lead to infections or even rabies, they necessitate immediate treatment and careful management, say doctors. The deceased, Chandra Virkhade, was bitten by a wild cat on her right hand four months ago. The victim was a resident of Nighoj village, Parner taluka, in Ahmednagar district.

Virkhade was admitted to Naidu Infectious Diseases Hospital around 9pm on January 27. She had developed classical symptoms of rabies like fear of water and air. She died around 2.10pm on January 28, health officials of the Pune Municipal Corporation said. "It was a category III animal-bite wound. As per the medical history given by the victim's relatives, Virkhade did not take anti-rabies vaccination on the scheduled days. She was also not administered rabies immunoglobulin, a ready-made antibody which is extremely effective in deactivating the virus in category III animal-bite injuries," civic officials said. Cat bite wounds turn infectious in 50% of the cases, as compared to 15-20% dog-bite cases, because cats have thin, pointy teeth that can effectively infect a person. "People underestimate the danger (of cat bites) and don't realize they need immediate care. They don't realize that a person bitten by a cat is at high risk of getting infected," said family physician Radheshyam Lahoti.

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India**

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Like dog-bite cases, cat bites are also treated with an anti-rabies vaccine. "We distinguish between bites. An animal usually bites when it is provoked. Such a bite, although treated vigorously, is considered normal. But if the bite is caused by an unprovoked animal, then it is looked at suspiciously," said senior physician D B Kadam of Sassoon General Hospital.

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