

QC jabs 82,241 pets vs rabies

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The **Quezon City government** reported over the weekend vaccinating 82,241 pets against rabies from January to September this year as a measure against the killer virus transmittable from animals to humans.

Quezon City's aggressive pet vaccination drive has been credited for the substantial drop in rabies cases in the city which in 2018 was among the 10 cities with the most cases.

The city has long been removed from that ignominious list of cities grappling with runaway rabies cases.

Data from the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry showed that QC has recorded a 65 percent drop in rabies cases from 2018 to 2019, from 17 cases to 8, respectively, year-on-year.

For the same January-September period this year, the LGU also spayed or neutered 1,817 animals to prevent unwanted reproduction.

City Veterinarian Dr. Ana Marie Cabel said that despite the pandemic, they have been going around the city's 142 barangays to provide anti-rabies shots and to neuter pets.

Aside from the vaccination and castration programs, she said the city has also ramped-up the impounding of stray animals that are usually the carriers of the rabies virus.

"Rabies can be fatal to humans if not treated that's why if a person is bitten, he should be vaccinated immediately.

Rabies is 100 percent preventable if treatment is immediately given," she said.