QC residents warned against stray dogs

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Quezon City residents were advised by local officials to be wary of stray dogs roaming their neighborhood, since rabies cases usually go up during the summer months.

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) noted that 98 percent of rabies cases are due to dog bites, 1.3 percent due to cats and 0.001 percent is caused by rabid dog bitten cattle, carabao, pig, goat and horse.

Councilors Victor Ferrer Jr. and Allan Benedict Reyes cited the statistics in urging barangay officials to coordinate with the city's dog pound to at least minimize the number of stray dogs.

Reyes is proposing for the creation
of a data system listing vaccinated dogs and including pertinent information about the animals.

He also called for the regular vaccination of dogs and other pets in the community.

"This would at least lessen the chances of infected animals afflicting human beings with the rabies virus,'' Reyes said.

Ferrer said the Department of Health (DOH) and the local-run public hospitals play important roles in the prophylaxis and post-bite treatment of bite victims.

Rabies remains a problem in the country, with 200 to 300 deaths due to the infection recorded every year. A third of the fatalities are children 15 years old and younger.