QC residents warned vs stray dogs

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Quezon City residents were advised by local officials to be wary of stray dogs roaming around the streets of their neighborhood with rabies cases usually rising during the summer months.

Past records from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed that 98 percent of rabies cases were due to dog bites.

With this, Councilors Victor Ferrer Jr. and Allan Benedict Reyes want barangay officials to coordinate with the city's dog pound to at least minimize the number of stray dogs.

Reyes has strongly batted for the creation of a data system where the list of vaccinated dogs accompanied by pertinent information are recorded.

He also called for an extensive and regular vaccination program 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,'' Reyess said.

Ferrer, for his part, 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 as 200 to 300 deaths due to the infection are recorded every year with one third of the fatalities occurring among children 15 years old and below.

Reyes called on concerned agencies to strictly implement the Anti-Rabies Act (RA 9482), citing the need to vaccinate the target 80 percent of the susceptible dog population of eight to nine million in the country.

Rabies is a highly viral disease affecting the nervous system that is transmitted mainly through bite of an infected animal and is characterized by muscle paralysis, hydrophobia and aerophobia.

Reyes also wants to conduct a massive information and education drive that would promote responsible pet ownership in the city.

Records at the Quezon City Health Department confirmed that rabies cases caused by dog bites usually increase during the summer months.