



# FREQUENCY OF ANIMAL AGGRESSIONS ON HUMANS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEDREIRAS, MARANHÃO (BRAZIL), FROM **JANUARY 2021 TO MAY 2024**

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#### INTRODUCTION

Human rabies is an acute, progressive, and fatal encephalitis observed under the One Health triad of animals, environment, and humans. It requires multisectoral attention and is preventable. Victimsof animal attacks are treated by multidisciplinary teams.

Objective: To analyze the occurrence of animal attacks on humans in the municipality of Pedreiras, Maranhão (Brazil).

### **METHODS**

Data on human aggressions caused by domestic and wild animals were provided by the Municipal Health Department of Pedreiras. The municipality, located in Maranhão, covers an area of 288.43 km² and has a population of 37,050 inhabitants.

#### **RESULTS**

From January 2021 to May 2024, 1,124 attacks on people were reported: 830 (73.8%) by dogs, 227 (22.9%) by cats, 7 (0.6%) by nonhematophagous bats, 14 (1.2%) by monkeys, 4 (0.4%) by foxes, 5 (0.4%)by pigs, 1 (0.1%) by horses, 1 (0.1%) by raccoons, and 5 (0.4%) by rats. There were no human rabies cases. According to the Brazilian Ministry of Health, dogs and cats are the main sources of followed by bats, monkeys, raccoons, and foxes in rural areas. Production represent а medium risk, and rats The National Rabies Prophylaxis Program (PNPR), created in implemented canine and feline rabies vaccination, significantly reducing human rabies mortality rates in Brazil. Prophylaxis includes pre-exposure treatment for individuals at permanent risk and post-exposure treatment for attack victims, involving thorough wound cleaning and administration of Anti-Rabies Serum (SAR) or Human Rabies Immunoglobulin (HRIG). For attacks by bats and wild mammals, four doses of vaccine are administered on days 0, 3, 7, and 14. Preventive actions are shared responsibilities among veterinarians and other health professionals.

## CONCLUSION

Dogs and cats are the main aggressors (96.7%) in urban areas, while foxes, monkeys, raccoons, and bats are important in rural areas.

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