



WORLD RABIES DAY 2026 – THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear MSAVA members, fellow veterinarians, animal practitioners and friends,

Today, on World Rabies Day, I would like us to pause and reflect on our journey with rabies in Malaysia. For Malaysia, this has been a difficult journey of **nearly a decade since rabies re-emerged in 2017**. We have learnt much, but there is still much more to do.

A special thank you to **Dr Joseph Yii, one of the reputable and respected senior private practitioners in Kuching, who is also serving as MSAVA Sarawak State Representative**, for sharing with us the journey of rabies control over the past decade. His sharing today helps us understand what has happened on the ground, what has been achieved, and what we should reflect on as we move forward.

Dogs and cats are the closest link between humans and animals. They live alongside us, in our homes and communities. This makes rabies in dogs and cats an important part of our **zoonotic disease control**. And because rabies is a deadly disease once clinical signs appear, it deserves our continued priority and attention.

Today, I would also like to give **a big clap and heartfelt salute to our MSAVA members and veterinary colleagues in Sarawak**, who have been working at the frontline all these years. We see your dedication, and we appreciate your courage and perseverance. To our members, I encourage you to **visit Sarawak, meet our colleagues and see their work firsthand**. Let us stand with them, learn from their experience and join their efforts to end rabies.

Rabies control cannot be achieved by one agency or one profession alone. We need the **Government, private veterinarians, NGOs, animal welfare groups and the public to work hand in hand**.

I sincerely hope that our **Prime Minister and the Government of Malaysia will give us greater priority, resources and support to ending rabies**, so that we can protect our communities and our animals more effectively.

At the heart of this is the precious **human-animal bond**. Our dogs and cats are our companions and part of our families. That bond should be one of love, trust and happiness — **not fear**.

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Malaysia Veterinary Medical Association (MAVMA)

Member association of:

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Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Associations (FASAVA)

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Malaysian Small Animal Veterinary Association (MSAVA)**

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Let us continue this journey together, learn from the past, strengthen what we are doing today, and work towards a future where rabies is no longer a threat to our people or our animals.

For our animals.

For our people.

For Malaysia.

Together, let us end rabies.

Warmest wishes on World Rabies Day.

From Dr Goh Lai Har

The President of

Malaysian Small Animal Veterinary Association (MSAVA)

Date: 19 September 2026

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