

# Rabies in animals

## South Africa

**DALRRD**  
**Directorate Animal Health**



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Images: Rabies: Guide for  
the Medical, Veterinary and  
for allied Professions – 2nd  
edition, 2010

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# What causes Rabies in animals

- Rabies is caused by a virus and it affects the brain
- Behavioural changes, salivation and nervous signs
- The virus is shed in the saliva of an infected animal
- Rabies is transmitted through bites, scratches and licks of an infected animal
- Rabies is fatal once symptoms are seen

**There is no cure for this virus, only prevention!**



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# Dogs & cats

Image: [www.missionrabies.com/](http://www.missionrabies.com/)



VS



Image: <http://www.fao.org/>

Image: <https://maritzburgsun.co.za/56990/rabid-stray-found-pmb/>



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# All mammals are susceptible - livestock



Image: Rabies: Guide for the Medical, Veterinary and for allied Professions – 2nd edition, 2010



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Images: <http://www.fao.org/>

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# All mammals are susceptible – typical wildlife



Image: [www.naturepl.com/](http://www.naturepl.com/)



Image: Rabies: Guide for the Medical, Veterinary and for allied Professions – 2nd edition, 2010



Image: <https://africageographic.com/>



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Image: [www.awf.org/](http://www.awf.org/)

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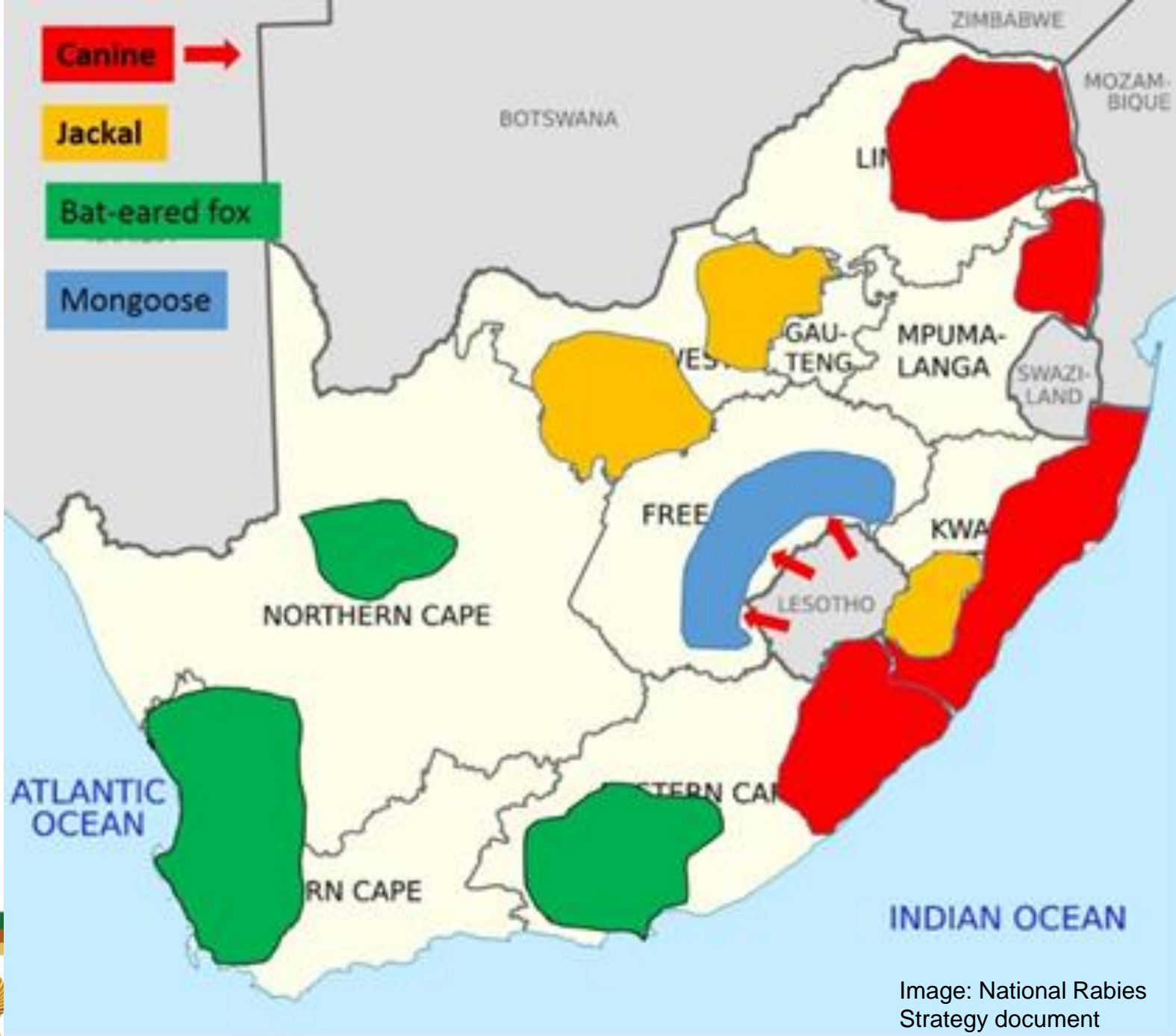


Image: National Rabies Strategy document



# Current Rabies situation - animals

- **2019 = 257 rabies cases** in animals officially reported to DALRRD
- **2020 = 294 rabies cases** in animals officially reported to DALRRD
- **2021, up to end July, just over 330 rabies positive laboratory results** have been recorded in animals...amounts to roughly 1.5 cases detected per day
- Can only detect cases if reported and samples submitted



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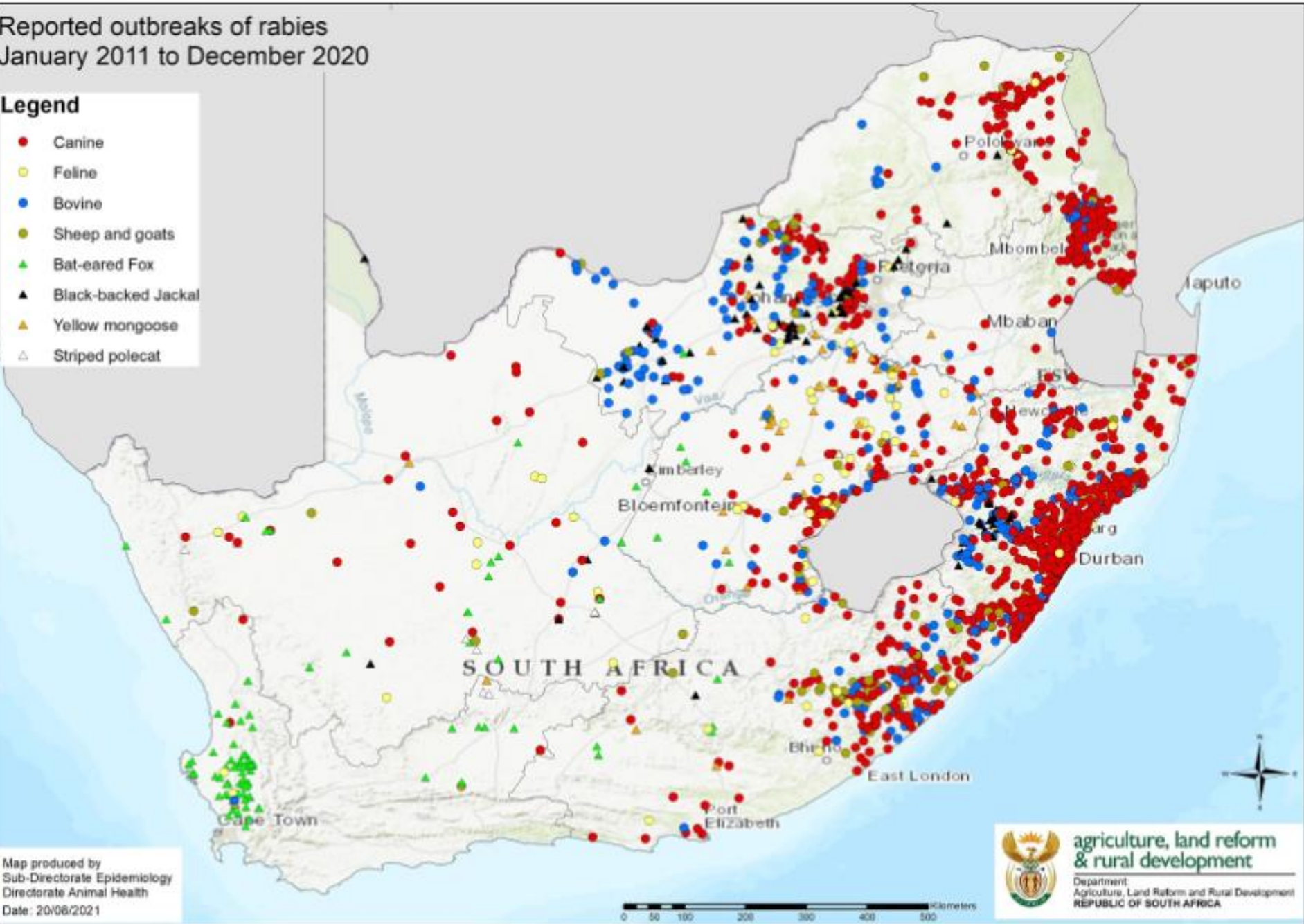
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# Reported outbreaks of rabies January 2011 to December 2020

- Legend**
- Canine
  - Feline
  - Bovine
  - Sheep and goats
  - ▲ Bat-eared Fox
  - ▲ Black-backed Jackal
  - ▲ Yellow mongoose
  - △ Striped polecat



Map produced by  
Sub-Directorate Epidemiology  
Directorate Animal Health  
Date: 20/08/2021



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### KwaZulu-Natal Rabies

1. Canine KwaNgqolosi Ethekwini Metro
2. Canine Odidini Ethekwini Metro
3. Canine Newcity Ezimbokotweni Ethekwini Metro

Animal Cases	Human Cases
234	3 (Confirmed) 3 (Probable)

Total Negative Animal samples -328

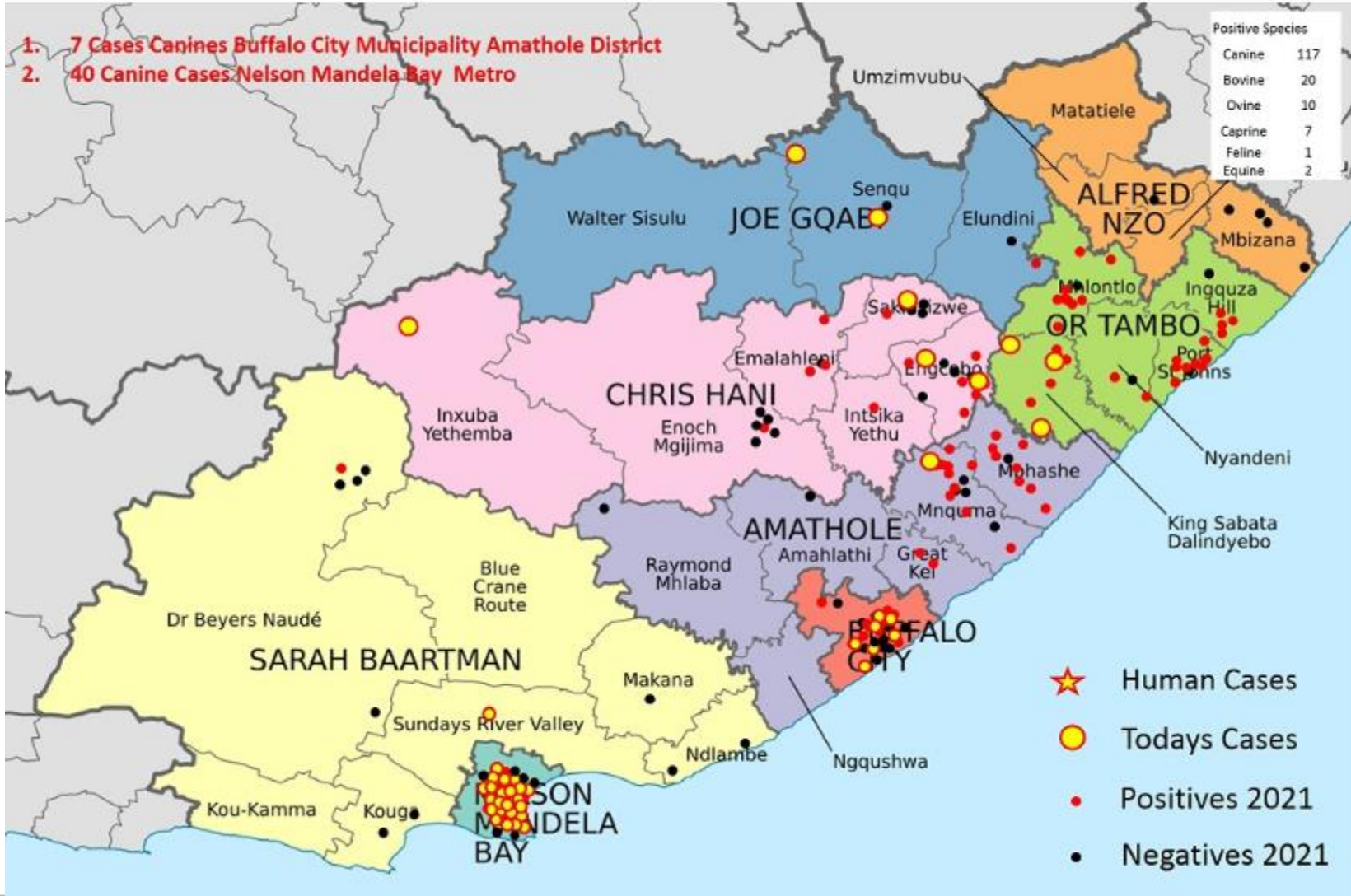


2021 21 Sep

Image: Mr K le Roux (RAG)

# EASTERN CAPE RABIES 13 Aug – 7Sep 2021

Pos	Neg
157	54



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Image: Mr K le Roux  
(RAG)



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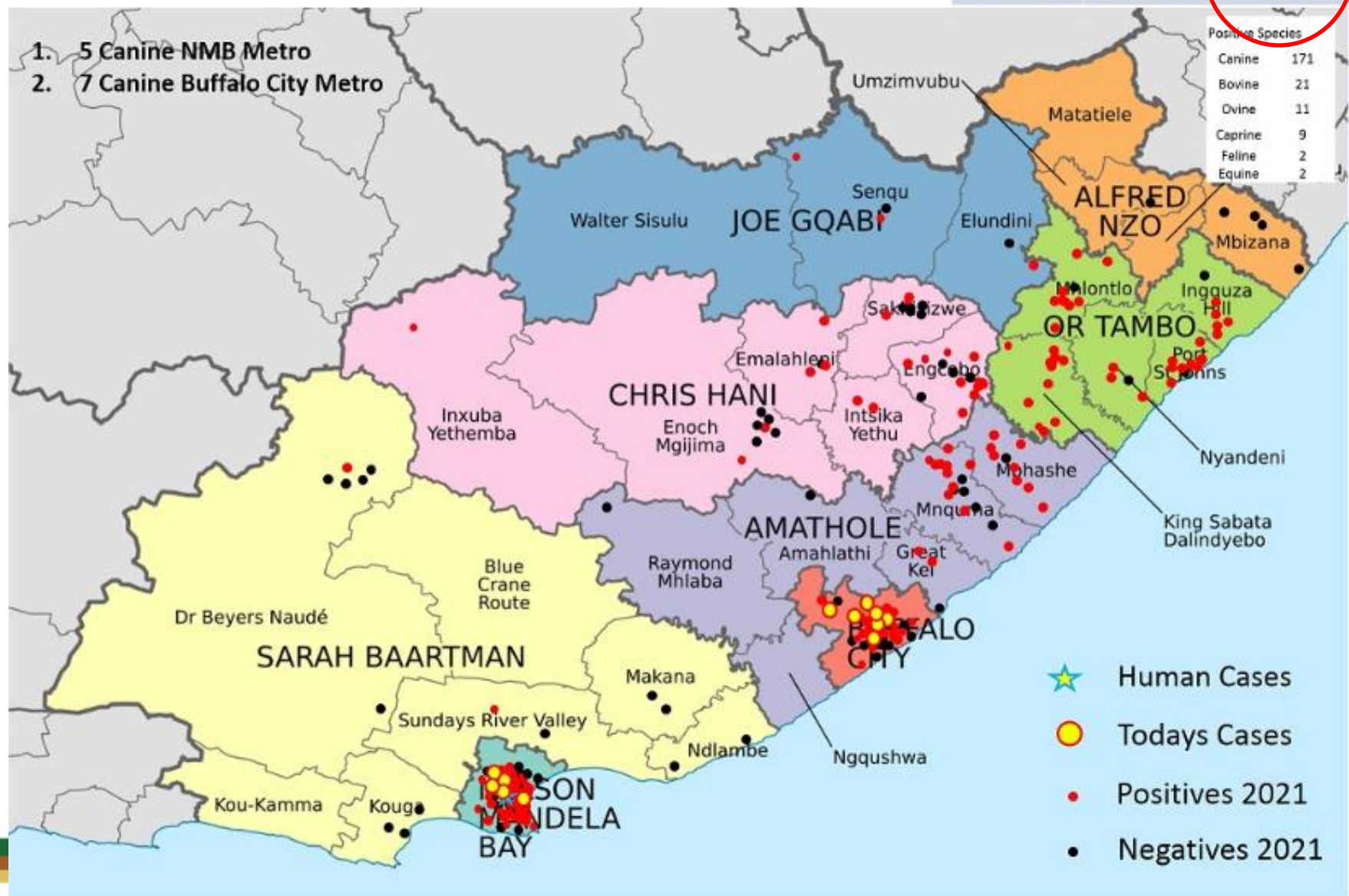
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# EASTERN CAPE RABIES 23 Sep 2021

Positive Animals	Negative Animals	Human
207	80	1

Positive Species	
Canine	171
Bovine	21
Ovine	11
Caprine	9
Feline	2
Equine	2

- 5 Canine NMB Metro
- 7 Canine Buffalo City Metro



- ★ Human Cases
- Today's Cases
- Positives 2021
- Negatives 2021

# The goal

# ZERO BY 30

## The Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030



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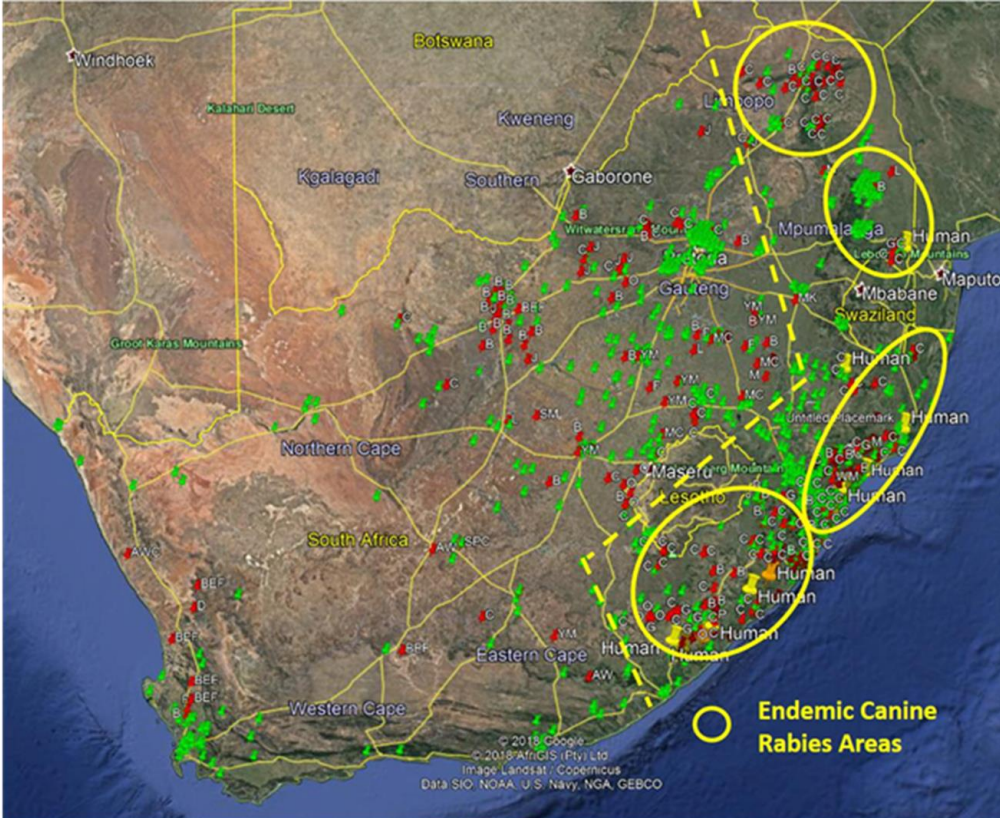


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# RSA rabies strategy



## National Strategy for the Elimination of Canine Mediated Human Rabies in South Africa (2019-2030)



September 2021



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# Every effort helps!



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Image: Dr Didi Claassen

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# Ensure your dogs and cats are vaccinated!

- All dogs and cats in the country **MUST** be vaccinated against rabies (Animal Diseases Act, No 35 of 1984)
- **Responsibility of owner!** Go to private vet, state veterinary services or welfare organizations
- First vaccine at 3 months (or any older age)
- Booster vaccine 1 to 12 months later
- Then booster vaccine every 3 years (law)
- Annually in high risk areas (strongly recommended)



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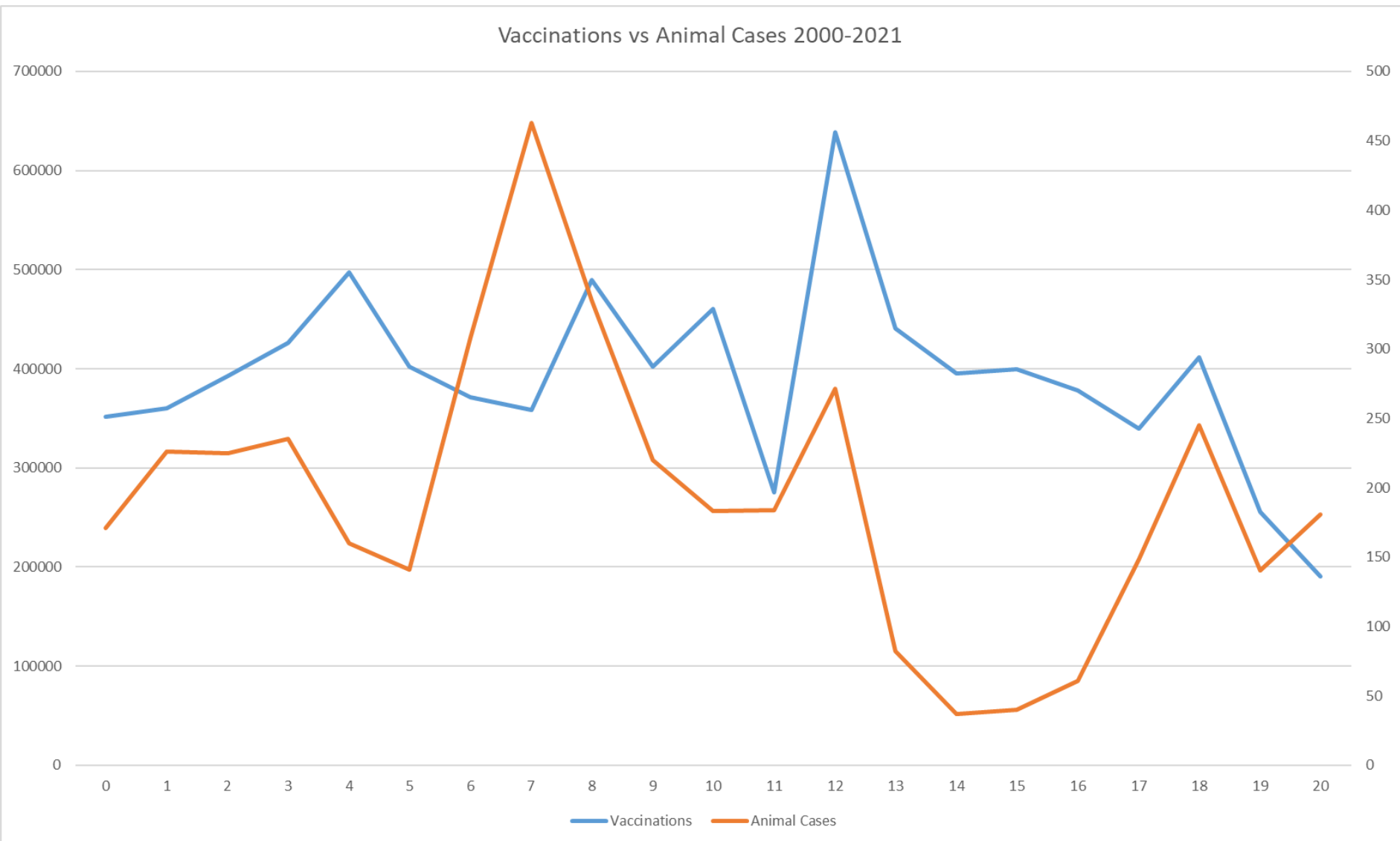
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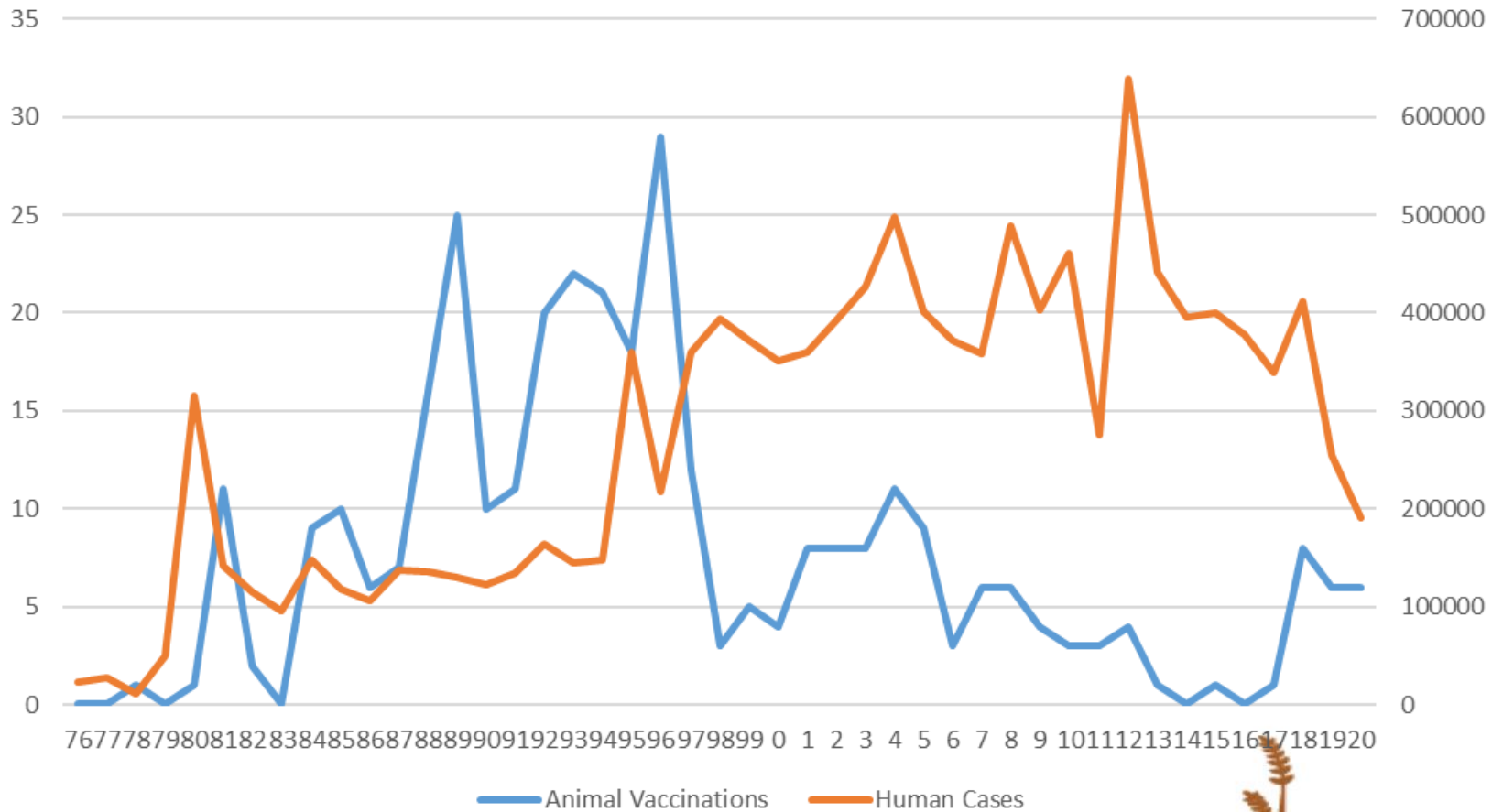


# KZN vaccination vs animal cases 2000-2021



# KZN dog vacc vs human cases 1976-2021

Rabies KZN (Dog Vaccs vs Human Cases)



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# Every effort helps!

- Report any suspect rabies animals to your local state veterinary office
- **Google search “DALRRD state vet contact list”**
- Share the information you learn about rabies with family, friends and neighbours
- Protect your pets, your family and your community against deadly rabies



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# “It’s this easy to pick up rabies!”



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Image:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/rabies>

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# Thank you

- Please post your questions or comments in the Facebook chat



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