

kind keep biting and attacking humans and animals. They may refuse feeds but bite at wood or iron objects. They look ferocious. There is profuse salivation.

Usually rabid animals act strangely. Sometimes they are sad, sometimes restless or irritable or attacking. Their mouth dribbles and froths and this fluid is highly infectious.

An originally aggressive dog may turn docile. The silent type languishes to death in neglected places. Wild animals may look friendly and turn to habitations. In case there are such problems in your area these need to be addressed and Gram Panchayats have to play the key role.

### Immunizing dogs

Immunization of dogs is essential. The protection given by vaccines used in the government veterinary services lasts for six months. Protection by newer vaccines lasts for one year. Those who handle dogs also need immunization every six months. A common problem is whether to use the milk of an animal bitten by a suspected dog or animal. The rabies germ is not reported in the milk of animals. It is completely destroyed by boiling, so milk of such animals is not harmful. However, the saliva of the animal will contain germs if infected by rabies. The key issue is to avoid direct contact of saliva of such animals.

#### Your role and responsibilities :

- Wash the site of bite with soap and water thoroughly.
- Refer all cases of dog/other animal bites to facility where an anti-rabies vaccine is available.
- Advise people to get pet dogs vaccinated against rabies.