WORLD RABIES DAY 2026

The Division of Veterinary Public Health (VPH), ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, observed World Rabies Day on 28th September 2026 by organizing a rabies awareness programme at Rajpura Mafi village, Bareilly, in coordination with Dr. D. C. Shukla of the Rotary Club, Izzatnagar. The programme was organized to create awareness among villagers about rabies, its prevention and the importance of taking timely action after an animal bite.

During the programme, Dr. Himani Dhanze, Senior Scientist, Division of Veterinary Public Health, delivered an interactive lecture on rabies, covering its transmission, signs and symptoms, prevention and control. She also interacted with the villagers about commonly followed local practices such application of household substances or other traditional remedies after animal bites. The villagers were sensitized that such practices should not be relied upon for rabies prevention and that immediate wound washing with soap and running water, followed by prompt medical consultation and appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis, is essential. The importance of reporting animal bites and completing the recommended vaccination schedule was also explained. An educational skit on rabies awareness was presented by BVSc & AH 3rd-year students. Through a simple and engaging act, the students depicted common situations related to animal bites and explained the appropriate steps to be followed after a dog bite. The skit was well received by the villagers and encouraged active participation and discussion.

Informative pamphlets on rabies prevention and control were also distributed among the villagers. The pamphlets provided simple and useful information on rabies prevention, immediate first-aid measures and the importance of seeking medical care following an animal bite.

The programme provided an opportunity for meaningful interaction between veterinary professionals, students and the local community. The collaborative efforts of the Division of Veterinary Public Health and Dr. D. C. Shukla, Rotary Club, Izzatnagar, helped in spreading important messages about rabies prevention at the community level.

The programme reflected the spirit of the "*Stronger Together*" theme of World Rabies Day 2026, highlighting the importance of community participation and collective efforts in preventing rabies and working towards zero human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

Skit on rabies by B.V.Sc third year students

Lecture on rabies by Dr Himani Dhanze