# Rabies Awareness – Keep a Top Watch! in your community animation

# transcript

**Narrator:** One day, on the north coast of Australia, a strange boat appeared. Nobody in the community had ever seen the boat before.

It didn’t seem to be coming to shore, or bothering anyone, so the locals weren’t too worried about it, but decided to keep an eye on it.

A young boy and girl went for a walk down the beach and play, like they did every day. As they got further and further down the beach, they saw the strange boat again. This time, closer to the shore.

They saw a strange dog jump off the boat and swim to the shore. They knew this dog could be dangerous – could have all sorts of diseases we don’t have in Australia, like rabies.

The kids ran back to town to tell a Ranger about the dog they just saw. The Ranger told them they did the right things. If that dog had rabies, it was important for the kids not to go near it, but to tell a Ranger or a Biosecurity Officer as soon as possible.

Rabies makes a dog act differently. A happy dog could start acting crazy or strange, and then die a few days after they change. Rabies is spread by biting, as the disease lives in the dog’s spit. If a dog with rabies bites you, you will get sick and die if you don’t get to a clinic quickly.

If you are bitten by a dog, wash the wound with soap and running water for 15 minutes and go to a health clinic straight away.

The whole community kept an eye out for that strange dog. They were watching their own dogs, too, in case they started acting crazy, or strange.

They eventually found the strange dog. He had already died, so the Biosecurity Officer took the body away to test for diseases. They found the dog did have rabies. It turns out, that strange boat with the dog had sailed from neighbouring islands from our north where rabies makes a lot of dogs and people very sick.

The community dogs and people were vaccinated to make sure everyone was safe from rabies.

Rabies is a really serious disease. Nearly 60,000 people from around the world die each year from rabies. We don’t have it in Australia, but it could come here at any time.

Keep a Top Watch in your community. If you see any dogs suddenly change their behaviour from a happy dog, to a crazy or strange dog, report it to a Ranger, the health clinic, Biosecurity Officer, or another adult you trust.

**On screen:**

Or call the emergency animal disease hotline 1 800 675 888

The rabies awareness initiative is part of the Australian Government’s Agricultural Competitiveness and Developing Northern Australia white papers, the Government’s plan for stronger farmers, a stronger economy and a safe secure Australia.

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Top Watch Biosecurity

Biosecurity – its everyone’s business