



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2014_IJTDH_14461
Title of the Manuscript:	Rabies Virus Neutralizing Antibodies In Unvaccinated Rabies Occupational Risk Groups In Niger State, Nigeria
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	This manuscript investigated "the presence of rabies virus neutralizing antibodies (rVNA) as well the potency of the rVNA in rabies occupational risk humans in Niger State of Nigeria, the results indicated that detectable titre of rVNA was recorded in 16.4% (23 of 140) viable human sera screened, some of the rVNA positives had no previously vaccination." Except the data of profession and detection result of rVNA, there were not any other data and analysis to explain this investigation. The difficulty to understand this investigation is how to explain the existence of rVNA among these rabies occupational risk humans who no rabies vaccination history previously, does this means the existence of rabies potential infection in these population and the possibility of survival for slowing lower rabies virus contact? Because the relatively high positive of rVNA among these rabies occupational risk humans in Niger State of Nigeria, how about the rabies epidemic in human and animals in this area, the opportunity of rabies infection in this area is higher than the other areas or other countries? Could you please provide some information or data about this, which might give some help to understand this investigation result. This investigation also showed that "the highest specific rate for rVNA of 25% each was seen amongst the dog butchers and pet owners followed by hunters (20%) and dog meat consumers (14.8%)", please give	Additional result from questionnaire survey was now added as table 3 and discussed as indicated shaded yellow line 194 – 219 These occupational rabies risk groups may have been exposed to the rabies antigen especially that reports have indicated the presence of rabies antigen in slaughtered dogs in Nigeria particularly in some syayes that shared boundaries with Niger State (our study area), though no previous documented or published article on rabies in the state. As said above no documented report of rabies in the state but in surrounding states hence our interest to investigate rabies in dogs, bats and humans particularly that slaughter of dogs for human consumption is done in the state. Our other aspect of the study revealed the presence of rabies antigen in the slaughtered dogs in the state. This aspect of our investigation does not



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	a relatively more explanation about this rVNA positive population, such as the origin and species of the dogs for slaughtering and pet dog in this area, the work condition as well as the techniques for dog slaughtering in here, do you find any infection risk existed in the dog slaughtering or dog species through your investigation or analysis in this area?	include these requested information, however, on other aspect of the study, the records showed that of the 471 dogs (brain) collected 98% were local dogs only 2 dogs were exotic breed slaughtered and 3 of the local dogs have rabies antigen in their brain which could infect humans (butchers, dog meat consumers and pet owners)
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments		
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		