Reviewer's report

Title: Epidemiological investigations of human rabies in China

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2009

Reviewer: Henry Wilde

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This manuscript is greatly improved but still not without at least one difficult to accept issue. They found that over 2% of the dogs "randomly" collected, apparently from restaurants specializing in dog meat, were positive by FAT for rabies. The FAT test is not positive until encephalitis is well underway; the animal is symptomatic. This would suggest that sick dogs are sold to the restaurants for dinners. If that is so, I can only hope that all meals are well cooked before served to people. Also, if this is true and FATs are not over-read, this would not be a random sample of the general dog population. The authors cannot avoid not to discuss this subject further and look for some reliable references regarding the appearance of FAT positive brain RNA in relation to clinical onset.

Please distribute these comments appropriately with my best wishes to the authors in China.