Supplementary Table 3. Items for risk of bias assessment

Hoy et al. tool for cross sectional studies	Yes (1)/No (0)
External validity	
1. Was the study's target population a close representation of the national population in relation to Rabies virus prevalence?	1
2. Was the sampling frame a true or close representation of the study population?	1
3. Was some form of random selection used to select the sample, OR was a census undertaken?	1
4. Was the likelihood of nonresponse bias minimal (> 70%)?	1
Internal validity	1
5. Were data collected directly from the subjects (as opposed to a proxy)?	1
6. Was an acceptable case definition used in the study?	1
7. Was the study viral detection assay shown to have validity and reliability?	1
8. Was the same mode type of sample collected for all subjects?	1
9. Was the length of the length of the study period > 1 year?	1
10. Were the numerator(s) and denominator(s) for the Lassa virus prevalence or case fatality rate appropriate?	1
Total score	**10**
Interpretation of the risk of bias tool • 7-10: Low risk of bias • 4-6: Moderate risk of bias • 0-3: High risk of bias	