

WILDLIFE RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM - METROPOLITAN NEW YORK

A cooperative effort involving Cornell University, the Nassau County Department of Health, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Others

The Metropolitan-NY Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Program seeks to control and eventually eliminate terrestrial rabies from New York City.

What: The federally-licensed wildlife rabies vaccine is contained in brown baits comprised of fishmeal, fish oil, and wax. Within densely populated areas, bait distribution includes tossing baits from vehicles or deployment of bait stations. Helicopters are routinely used to drop baits over less-populated areas.

How: Raccoons are vaccinated against rabies when they eat the wildlife rabies vaccine that is contained within fishmeal polymer and coated sachet baits.

When: Vaccine distribution is planned during AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2014.

Where: *Kings, Queens, Richmond and Nassau Counties:* Green spaces will be baited with vehicles or bait stations in the southern portion of Kings, Queens and Nassau Counties, from approximately Hillside Avenue and Hempstead Turnpike to the Great South Bay during early September and October.

A helicopter will be used to distribute vaccine over Richmond County and the marshy habitats in the Town of Hempstead (Nassau County) in late August.

Why: Richmond County reported 54 terrestrial rabies cases during 2012-2013, and six rabid animals thus far in 2014. Five terrestrial rabies cases have also been reported in southern Kings County during the same time interval. Rabies virus has been reported during most years in NYC, presenting a threat of eastward advance into Nassau and Suffolk Counties where rabies was eliminated during November 2007 and January 2009, respectively. ORV was applied in both counties during 2006-2010. Rabies is nearly always fatal in unvaccinated animals, a costly health threat that impacts people, domestic animals and wildlife. Wildlife vaccination will help to reduce the number of rabies cases and prevent the continued spread of the virus within the region.

Who: Cornell University will conduct the vaccination program in cooperation with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Nassau County Department of Health, and others.

ORV Recommendations:

- Supervise children's outdoor activities during, and for one week following, bait distribution
- Confine dogs and cats indoors and observe leash laws during the bait distribution interval and for one week afterwards. This will increase the probability of raccoon vaccination and will decrease the chance of pets finding the baits
- The bait and vaccine are not harmful to dogs or cats; however, an animal may vomit if it eats several baits. DO NOT RISK BEING BITTEN WHILE TRYING TO REMOVE A BAIT FROM YOUR PET'S MOUTH
- WASH YOUR HANDS IMMEDIATELY if you come into direct contact with the vaccine or bait, then call (212) 764-7667
- Call if (212) 764-7667 if you see your pet with bait in its mouth
- If baits are observed in the environment, please leave them alone. The baits have a strong fishmeal scent that is not attractive to people or most other animals. (A label identifies each bait: "Rabies Vaccine Live Vaccinia Vector. Do Not Disturb, Merial, Inc. Us Vet Lic. No. 298 1-877-722-6725.")
- If a bait station is observed in the environment, please do not touch or move it. The bait stations will be removed by program personnel at a later date
- If a bait is intact and out in the open where pets or children may encounter it, please toss the bait under trees or bushes while wearing gloves or using a plastic bag

IN THE EVENT OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE BAIT OR VACCINE, PLEASE CONTACT THE POISON CONTROL CENTER AT:

212-764-7667

General Information: Rabies is a viral infection that affects the nervous system of raccoons and other mammals, including humans. The disease is generally fatal once clinical signs of infection occur. Wildlife vaccination will decrease the chance of human and domestic animal contact with terrestrial rabid animals. Rabies is usually transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. However, the virus may also be transmitted when the saliva of a rabid animal comes into contact with cut, open, or scratched skin lesions. To reduce the risk of rabies exposure:

- Verify that your animals have current rabies vaccinations, including dogs, cats, ferrets, livestock and horses
- Keep pets (dogs, cats, ferrets) on a leash
- House pets and livestock indoors during evenings and nights
- Do not touch or have contact with any animal other than your own
- Do not touch dying or dead animals. If you must move a dead animal, use a shovel, wear heavy rubber gloves and double bag the carcass
- Warn your family against approaching any unknown animal -- wild or domestic -- especially those acting in an unusual manner
- Instruct your children to tell you immediately if they were bitten or scratched by any animal
- If a bat is found in a room where adults or children were sleeping, or if an adult enters a room and finds a bat with a child, **DO NOT RELEASE THE BAT**, notify the County Health Department immediately
- Do not leave pet food outdoors or feed unknown animals. Discourage unknown animals from seeking food or shelter near your home

- Do not attempt to trap wildlife on your property. Contract with a state-licensed, professional wildlife control officer
- Keep garbage containers tightly covered and avoid storing any food outside
- Remember that New York State law requires all dogs, cats and domesticated ferrets to be vaccinated against rabies

Individuals bitten or scratched by any animal should immediately contact their physicians or seek medical help at a hospital emergency room.

For more information regarding rabies and wildlife vaccination, please visit the following Websites:

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/cdrab.shtml>

Nassau County Department of Health at:
<http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/health/rabies.html>

Merial, Limited at: www.raboral.com

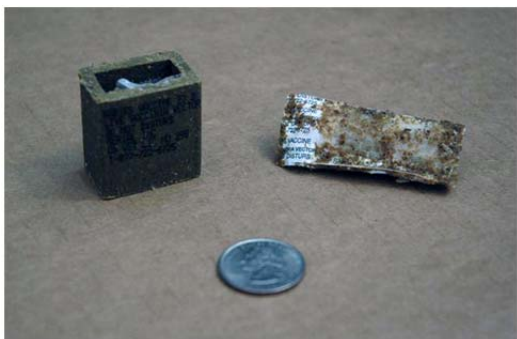
USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services at:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage/rabies>

NYS Department of Health at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/vaccfact.htm>

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<http://www.cdc.gov/RABIES/>

Alleghany County Department of Health (PA):
<http://www.achd.net/raccoon>

For general questions about the Wildlife Oral Rabies Vaccination Program in Metropolitan NY, please contact Cornell University at: 607-253-3968



Fishmeal Polymer and Coated Sachet vaccine baits containing the RABORAL V-RG® wildlife rabies vaccine



Two urban raccoons visit a bait station with oral rabies vaccine contained in fishmeal baits.