

For Immediate Release: September 5, 2017  
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### Raccoon Rabies Vaccination Campaign to Begin This Week

Fishmeal baits containing the federally-licensed, RABORAL V-RG® rabies vaccine will be distributed from a USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services helicopter in the southwestern portion of the Town of Hempstead during an 8-hour interval between Tuesday - Friday, 5-8 September 2017, weather permitting. Cornell University coordinates a cooperative rabies control program with local health agencies, USDA and other partners in the Metropolitan NY area. The regional program seeks to prevent the eastward spread of rabies into Nassau and Suffolk Counties, while also striving towards rabies elimination in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. A wild animal is vaccinated against rabies when it bites into a bait containing the US-licensed vaccine.

The RABORAL V-RG® vaccine is not harmful to people, pets or wildlife. However, dogs that consume several baits may develop an upset stomach, with no long-term health effects. Please confine dogs and cats indoors and keep your pets on leashes during the bait distribution interval and for one week afterward to increase the likelihood that raccoons will find the baits. Do not risk being bitten while attempting to remove a bait from your pet's mouth.

Please leave the baits alone if they are observed in the environment. However, if an intact bait is out in the open where pets or children may find it, please toss the bait under trees or bushes while wearing gloves or using a plastic bag. If contact with the bait or vaccine occurs, rinse the area with warm, soapy water, then call 212-764-7667.

Rabies is a serious viral infection that affects the nervous system of raccoons and other mammals, including people. The disease is almost always fatal once clinical signs of infection occur. Distribution of the oral vaccine will help to decrease the chance of human and domestic animal interactions with rabid wildlife. Check your veterinary records to be sure that your pets are current with their rabies vaccinations. The wildlife rabies vaccine is not available to homeowners; the vaccine baits are only licensed for use in state-approved, wildlife rabies vaccination programs.



**Coated Sachet bait containing the  
RABORAL V-RG® wildlife rabies vaccine**