

WILDLIFE RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM – WESTERN NEW YORK

A cooperative effort involving Cornell University, the Niagara and Erie County Health Departments, the N.Y.S. Department of Health, USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, the Tuscarora Nation, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

The Wildlife Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Program seeks to control and eventually eliminate terrestrial rabies. A new, experimental vaccine will also be evaluated and compared with the federally-licensed wildlife rabies vaccine in the United States.

What: The federally-licensed wildlife rabies vaccine (RABORAL V-RG[®])¹ is contained in brown baits comprised of fishmeal, fish oil, and wax. The experimental wildlife rabies vaccine (ONRAB[®])² is contained in green baits comprised of vegetable shortening, wax, icing sugar, oil and flavoring.

How: Raccoons are vaccinated against rabies when they eat the wildlife rabies vaccine that is contained within the baits. Fixed-wing aircraft are used to distribute baits over rural areas, vehicles are used in dense residential neighborhoods, and helicopters distribute baits over less-populated, residential areas.

When: Vaccine distribution is planned during late August, starting on or about 16 August 2013 (weather dependent).

Where: *Niagara County:* All of Niagara County will be treated with vaccine.

Erie County: The northern portion of Erie County will be included in the wildlife rabies vaccination zone, bounded to the south (approximately) by State Route 354 and Seneca Street.

Why: Terrestrial rabies cases have persisted in Niagara and Erie Counties since the oral vaccination program was initiated in 1995 and 2002, respectively. Rabies is nearly always fatal in unvaccinated animals, a very costly health threat that impacts people, domestic animals and wildlife. Immunization of wildlife will help to reduce the number of rabies cases and prevent the continued spread of the fatal virus.

Who: Cornell University will conduct the vaccination program in cooperation with the Niagara and Erie County Departments of Health and several other cooperators.

ORV Recommendations:

- **WASH YOUR HANDS IMMEDIATELY if you come into direct contact with the vaccine or bait, then call (1-888-574-6656)**
- 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 afterward. This will increase the probability of raccoon vaccination and will decrease the chance of pets finding the baits
- The baits and vaccines are not harmful to domestic animals; however, an animal may vomit if it consumes several baits. **DO NOT RISK BEING BITTEN WHILE TRYING TO REMOVE A BAIT FROM YOUR PET'S MOUTH**
- Call (1-888-574-6656) if you see your pet with bait in its mouth and cannot read the label
- If baits are observed in the environment, please leave them alone. Labels identify the baits: ("Rabies Vaccine Live Vaccinia Vector. Do Not Disturb, Merial, Inc. Us Vet Lic. No. 298 1-877-722-6725.") OR ("Rabies Vaccine DO NOT EAT, Live adenovirus vector. MNR 1-888-574-6656")
- If a bait is intact and out in the open where pets or children may find it, please toss the bait under trees or bushes. Wear gloves or use a plastic bag to pick up the bait
- If a bait is broken and the liquid vaccine is visible, wear gloves, and cover the bait and affected area with a 1:10 solution of bleach and water, place the bait in a plastic bag, and dispose of the bag in the household trash

IN THE EVENT OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH A BAIT OR VACCINE, PLEASE CALL: 1-888-574-6656

General Information: Rabies is a viral infection that affects the nervous system of raccoons and other mammals, including people. The disease is usually fatal after clinical signs of infection occur. Wildlife vaccination will decrease the chance of human and domestic animal contact with wild, 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 assistance at a hospital emergency room.

For more information regarding rabies and animal vaccination, you may visit the following Websites:

Niagara County Department of Health at:

<http://www.niagaracounty.com/health/Services/RabiesAndPestControl/RabiesPrevention.aspx>

Erie County Department of Health at:

<http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=rabies-information>

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:

<http://www.cdc.gov/RABIES/>

Allegheny County Department of Health (PA):

<http://www.achd.net/raccoon>

For general questions about the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program in Western NY, please call Cornell University at (1-607-253-3968)

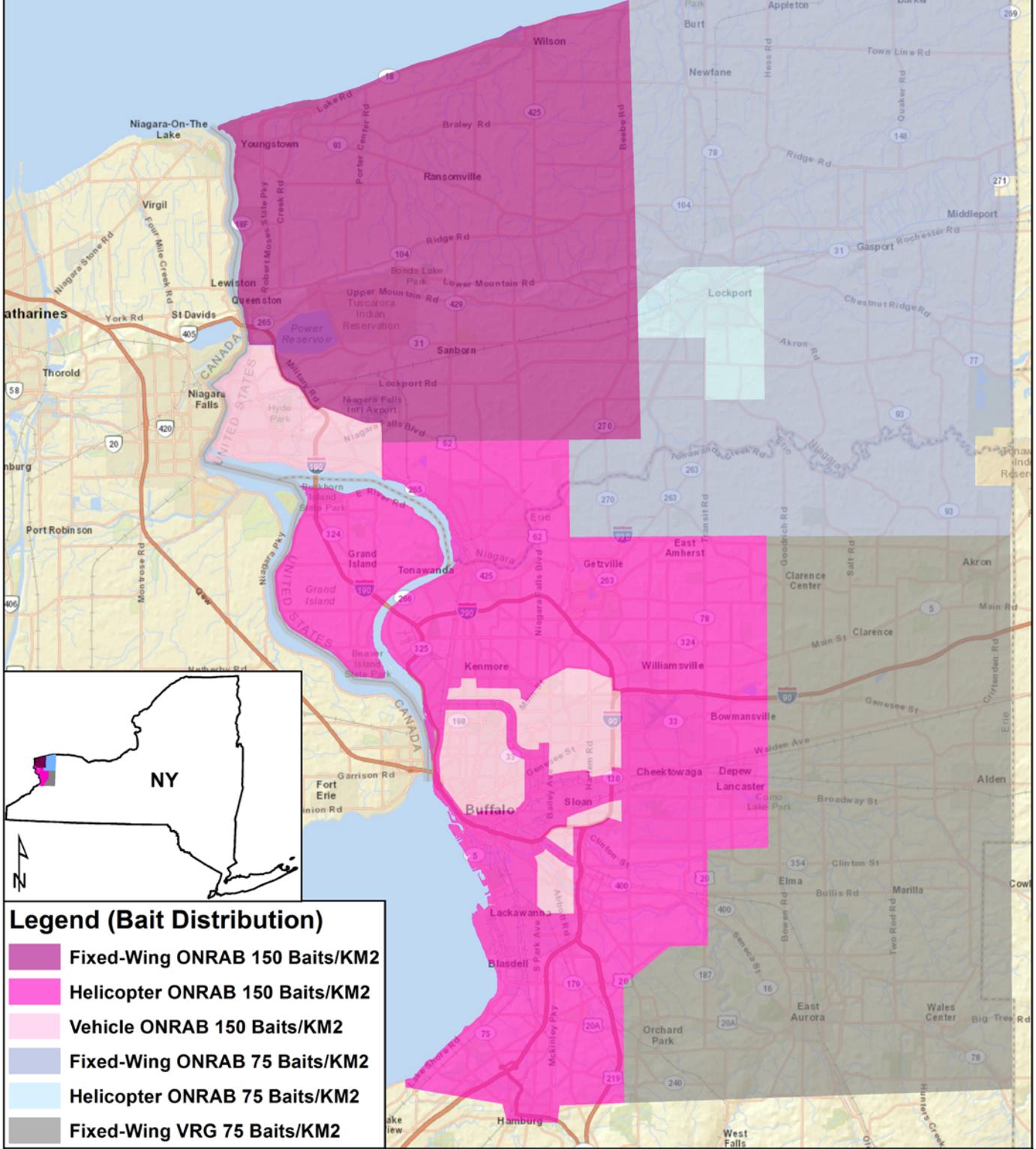


1_ Coated sachet containing the RABORAL V-RG® wildlife rabies vaccine



2_ Ultralite bait containing the ONRAB® wildlife rabies vaccine

Oral Rabies Vaccination Program Western NY - 2014



Legend (Bait Distribution)

- Fixed-Wing ONRAB 150 Baits/KM2
- Helicopter ONRAB 150 Baits/KM2
- Vehicle ONRAB 150 Baits/KM2
- Fixed-Wing ONRAB 75 Baits/KM2
- Helicopter ONRAB 75 Baits/KM2
- Fixed-Wing VRG 75 Baits/KM2



NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Cornell University

