



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cattaraugus County
Health Department

Established 1923

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Oral Rabies Vaccine Bait Distribution Project Anticipated to Begin as Early as the Week of August 10th

The Cattaraugus County Health Department's Environmental Division is part of a collaborative effort to prevent the spread of raccoon rabies in the Western New York (WNY) region through dissemination of oral rabies vaccine (ORV). Partners include Niagara, Erie, Orleans, Genesee, Cattaraugus, Wyoming and Chautauqua County Health Departments; New York State Department of Health, Agriculture & Markets; Wildlife Services Program of the US Department of Agriculture; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Canada); Tuscarora and Seneca Nations; Cornell University and others.

This is the 8th year of WNY participation in the field trial to study the efficacy of ORV against rabies in the wild although this is the first year that any baits will be dropped from airplanes over the northernmost towns in Cattaraugus County. The field test will include aerial distribution of rabies vaccine using ONRAB brand baits. Fixed wing aircraft distribution is anticipated to be a 5-day distribution event sometime between August 10th and August 31st. Exact timing is affected by flight disparities and delays such as weather.

Raccoons are vaccinated against rabies when they eat the wildlife rabies vaccine that is contained in the baits. "During the baiting period, residents may see and hear low-flying aircraft," said Eric Wohlers, Cattaraugus County Environmental Health Director. The green ONRAB baits are about the size of a matchbox and are comprised of vegetable shortening, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil and flavoring. Humans and pets cannot get rabies from the bait. It is anticipated that 628,400 baits will be distributed over participating counties as indicated in the attached Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Program, Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Zone 2020 Map. If you find ORV baits leave them alone, unless they are found where children or pets play. Follow ORV recommendations on page 2.

"Terrestrial rabies cases have persisted in WNY counties since the early 1990's. Rabies continues to be a serious public health concern, and fatal in unvaccinated animals," explained Wohlers. "Immunization of wildlife will help to reduce the number of rabies cases and prevent the continued spread of this fatal virus. Members of the community can help by monitoring their children and pets, and by keeping pets current with rabies vaccinations," he advised.

If residents have additional questions related to the ORV ONRAB field trial, contact the Environmental Health Division at 716-701-3386. Information may also be found by visiting:

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/wildlife.htm>

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/programs/nrmp/ct_orv_vaccination

Residents can follow the progress of bait distribution by USDA using the following link to the NRMP Daily Status Dashboard map: <https://bit.ly/2YqcfNI>.

WILDLIFE RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM – WESTERN NEW YORK

A cooperative effort involving the Niagara, Erie, Orleans, Genesee, Cattaraugus, Wyoming and Chautauqua County Health Departments, the NYS Departments of Health and Agriculture & Markets, USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Canada), the Tuscarora and Seneca Nations, Cornell University and Others

The Wildlife Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Program seeks to control and eliminate terrestrial rabies. The evaluation of an experimental vaccine will also be continued.

What: The oral wildlife rabies vaccine (ONRAB®) is contained in green baits comprised of vegetable shortening, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil and flavoring. Approximately 628,400 vaccine-laden baits will be distributed in Western NY.

How: Raccoons are vaccinated against rabies when they eat the wildlife rabies vaccine that is contained within the Ultralite® baits. Fixed-wing aircraft (white with red and blue trim) are used to distribute baits over rural areas, vehicles are used in dense residential neighborhoods, and helicopters (red with black trim) distribute baits over less-populated, residential areas. Parallel flight lines are established 250 or 500 meters apart in helicopter and fixed-wing ORV zones.

When: Aerial distribution (weather dependent) will start on or about 11 August with fixed-wing aircraft. Helicopter distribution will start on or about 16 August. Vehicle distribution will also commence on 16 August and may proceed through the end of August.

Where: Niagara and Erie Counties, and portions of Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Allegany Counties.

Why: Terrestrial rabies cases have persisted in Western NY Counties since the early 1990's. Rabies is nearly always fatal in unvaccinated animals, a very costly health threat that impacts people, pets, domestic livestock and wildlife. Immunization of wildlife will help to reduce the number of rabies cases and prevent the continued spread of the fatal virus.

Who: The vaccination program is a cooperative effort involving the participating County Health Departments, USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services, Cornell University, the NYS Department of Health, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Tuscarora and Seneca Nations, and 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 bait distribution and for one week afterward
- 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 bait: ("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 THE NY STATE HEALTH
DEPARTMENT:
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 sick 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 nuisance 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 wildlife vaccination, please visit the following websites:

NYS Department of Health at:

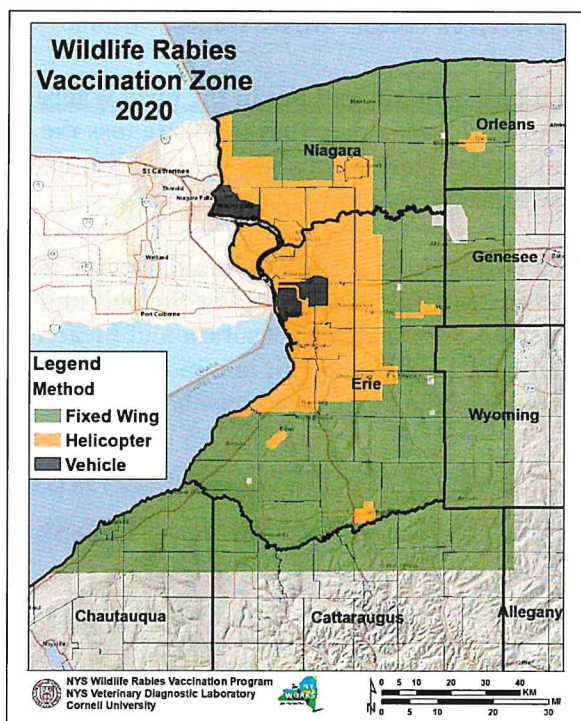
<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/vaccfact.htm>

USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage/rabies>

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

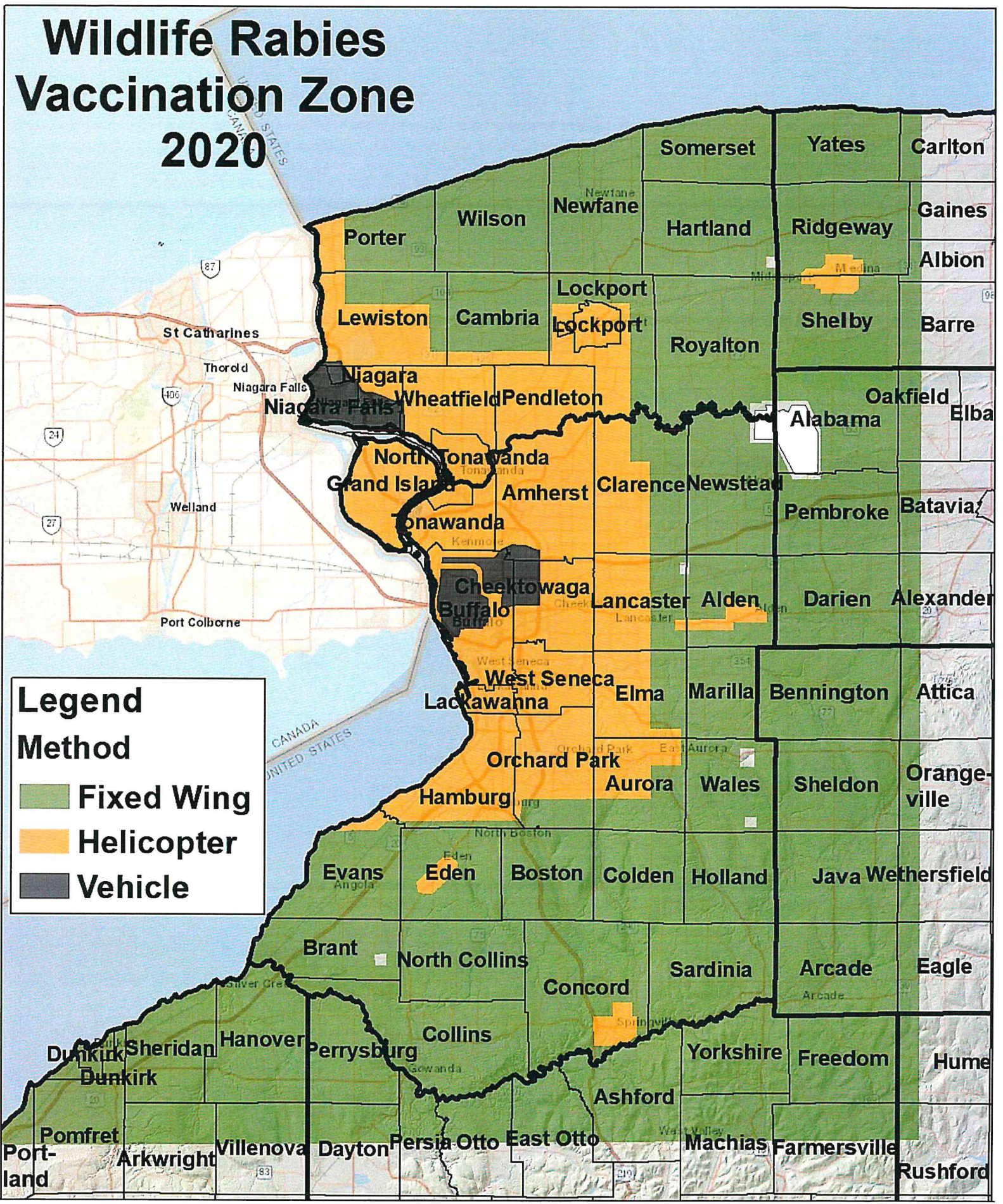
<http://www.cdc.gov/RABIES/>



Vaccine Bait



Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Zone 2020

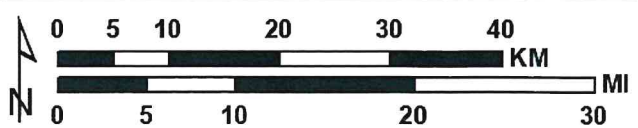


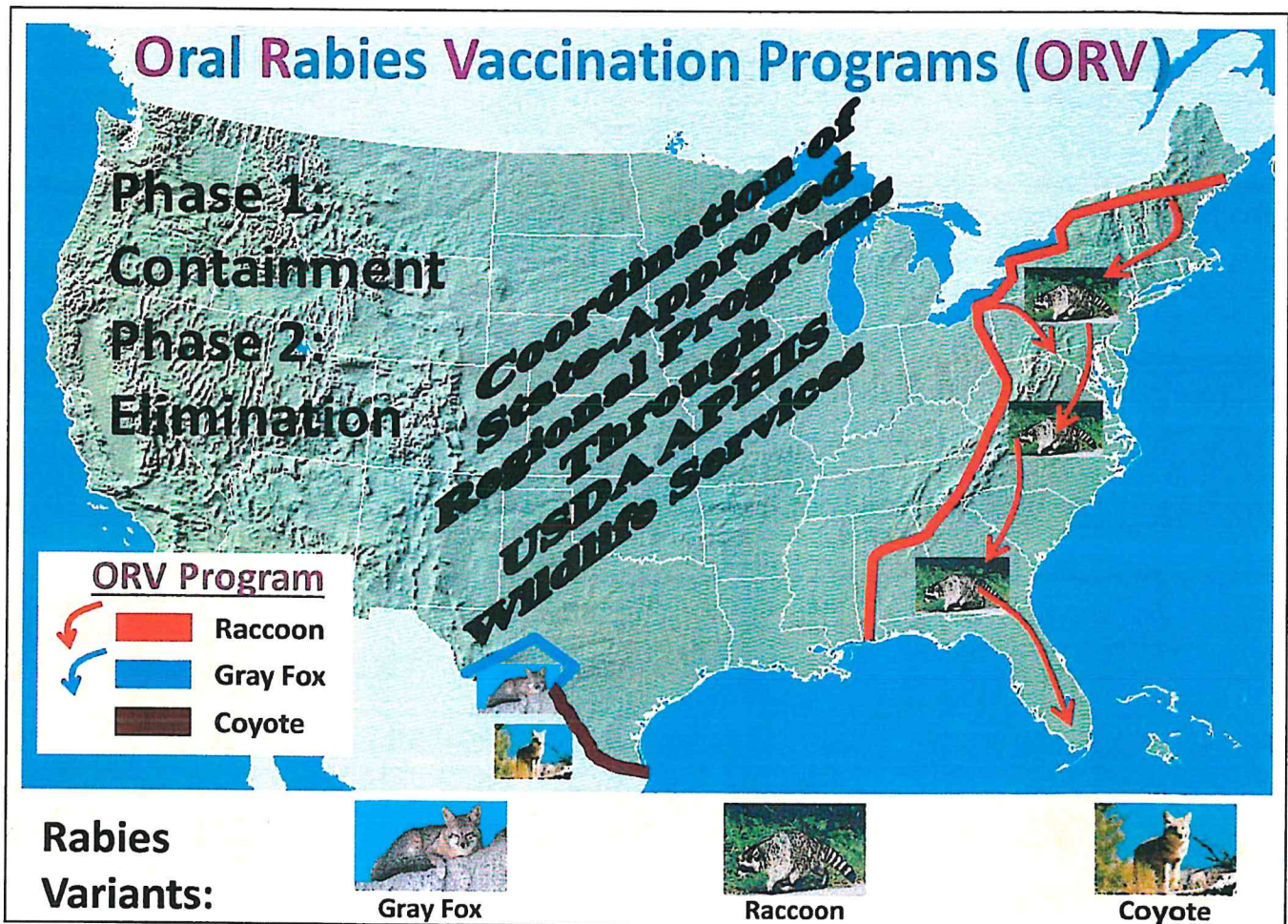
Legend

Method

- Fixed Wing
- Helicopter
- Vehicle

NYS Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Program
 NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
 Cornell University



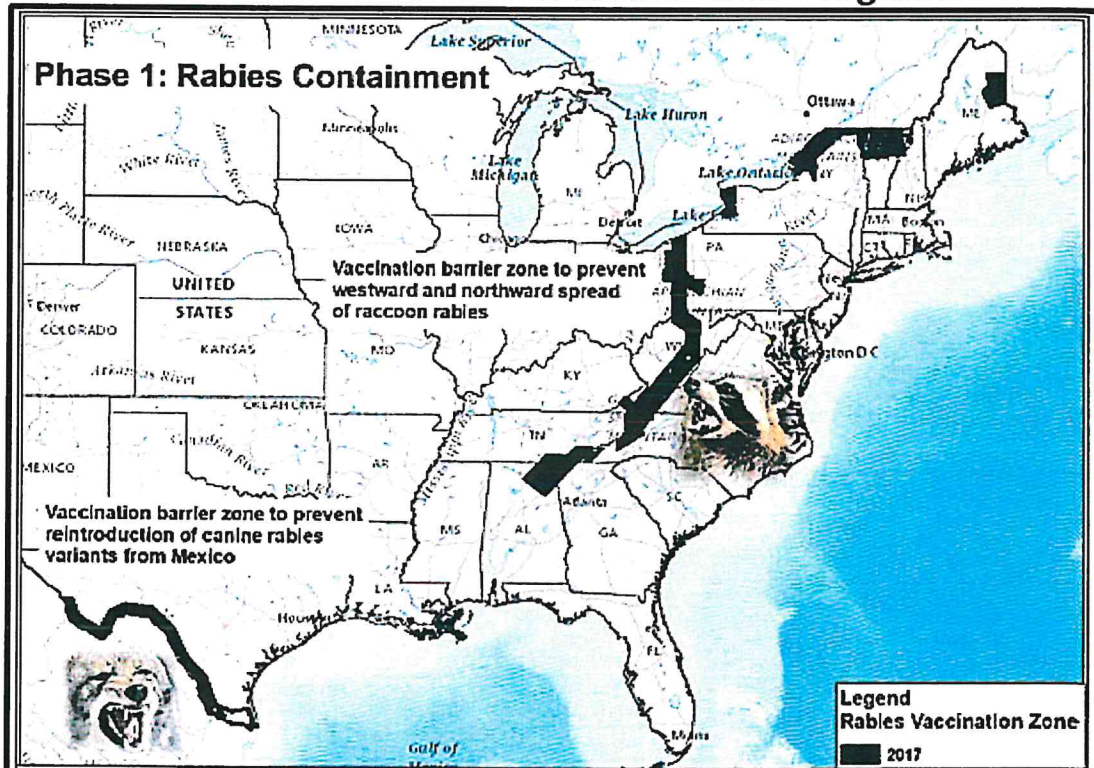


Oral rabies vaccination (ORV) programs have successfully reduced and eliminated the incidence of rabies in affected areas. Raccoon, gray fox, and coyote variants of rabies virus have also been restricted to relatively small areas of the United States. Without the implementation of coordinated vaccination efforts among affected states, the rabies strains and their associated costs would be expected to spread throughout much of the contiguous United States and Canada. Raccoon rabies has advanced westward into Ohio and West Virginia; it is poised to infect the mid-western United States. If the State of Texas had not eliminated rabies in coyotes and gray foxes, rabies in wild US canids would have been expected to spread northward beyond the Canadian Border within a decade. The capability of managing this fatal disease has far exceeded the capacity and limitations of local jurisdictions. Expanded State and Federal financial support are desperately needed to assist state-approved, wildlife vaccination programs that are part of coordinated, regional, rabies control and elimination strategies.

Vaccination campaigns have effectively halted viral advance; rabies has been successfully controlled through the distribution of vaccine-laden baits in the environment. Numerous cost-benefit analyses have also demonstrated that financial benefits are realized through elimination of the fatal disease. The alternative would be to permit the rabies strains to spread throughout the United States and allow the virus to persist as a long-term, costly health threat affecting people, pets, domestic livestock and wildlife. Large-scale regional programs have been developed and implemented to support and expand state-approved, wildlife rabies control and elimination efforts. Within the U.S. Federal Government, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services retains the legislated mandate to control rabies in wildlife, while providing coordination among individual State wildlife vaccination programs. USDA APHIS Wildlife Services has also demonstrated its commitment to ORV by providing funding, in-kind services, and aircraft to assist rabies control programs in many states, including NY.

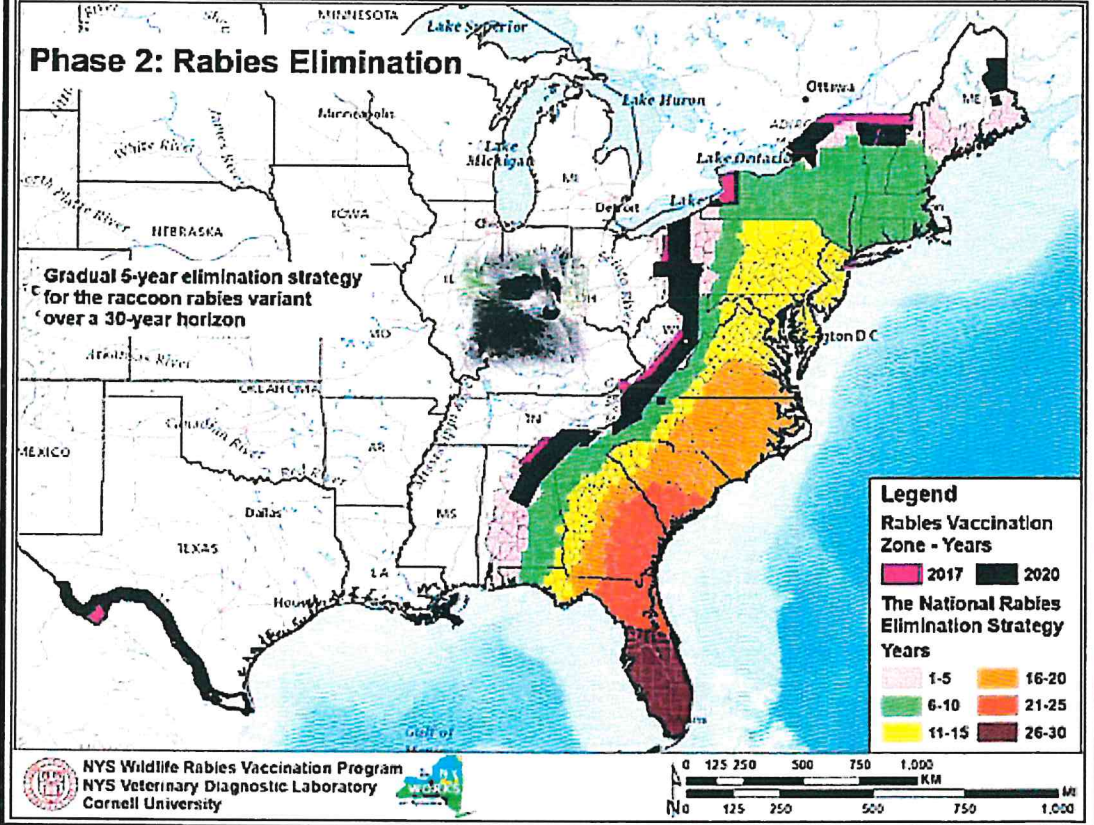
NATIONAL RABIES ELIMINATION STRATEGY

USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services Coordination of
State Rabies Control & Elimination Programs



NYS Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Program
NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Cornell University

0 125 250 500 750 1,000
KM
0 125 250 500 750 1,000
Miles



NYS Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Program
NYS Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Cornell University

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