

2017 Wildlife Oral Rabies Vaccination Program

The Government of New Brunswick will conduct an oral rabies vaccination program in July and August.

Wildlife rabies vaccination involves distributing baits, both by air and by hand, that contain a wildlife rabies vaccine. Raccoons and skunks are vaccinated against rabies after eating the bait.

Wildlife rabies vaccination will occur in the brown area marked on the map (right). In rural areas, airplanes flying about 200 meters above ground will distribute baits over a three to five day period in mid-August. In urban areas, baits will be distributed mainly by hand in July and August.

To help prevent pets from eating vaccine baits, please keep your pets under close surveillance during the baiting campaign, to ensure pets do not eat the vaccine baits intended for wildlife. See www.gnb.ca/rabies for more details.

Are the vaccine baits safe?

Simply touching the bait is not a concern. Exposure to the bait is not harmful to people or pets; however, in the unlikely event that people or pets come in contact with the vaccine contained in the bait, contacting a doctor or veterinarian as a precaution is recommended.

What if I find vaccine bait near my home?

It is best to leave the bait alone. If the bait is on your lawn, driveway, or other area where it is not likely to attract a raccoon or skunk, you could move the bait. Wear gloves or other protective covering (i.e., a plastic bag placed over your hand) and move the bait to a wooded area where a raccoon or skunk is more likely to find it. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after any contact with bait.



Photo courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Can I get rabies from contact with the vaccine?

No. The vaccine does not contain live rabies virus.

The vaccine uses a live human virus (adenovirus) to carry a part of the rabies gene. Adenoviruses are common and cause mild respiratory tract infections in people. Most infections do not result in any symptoms but may sometimes cause mild illness with fever, sore throat and a stuffy nose. Most people over the age of five are immune.

It is possible that contact with the adenovirus in the vaccine could cause illness and symptoms in children who are not immune or in people with a compromised immune status. The probability of exposure to adenovirus through contact with the vaccine bait is small. If you touch the vaccine or bait, wash the exposed area thoroughly with soap and water and contact your physician as a precaution. To help ensure that the wildlife vaccination program is carried out as safely and effectively as possible, report the contact incident to the toll free number printed on the vaccine bait.

What happens if my pet is exposed to the vaccine contained in the bait? If pets eat the bait, they may experience some stomach upset due to the fat and wax compound surrounding the plastic vaccine pack. Contacting a veterinarian as a precaution is recommended.

To help prevent pets from eating baits, please keep your pets under close surveillance during the baiting campaign, to ensure pets do not eat the vaccine intended for wildlife.

The vaccine is not designed for pets (like dogs and cats). Your pet must receive a rabies vaccine injection from a veterinarian to be vaccinated against rabies.

For more information see *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Rabies Vaccine, Live Adenovirus Vector (AdRG1.3 baits); Trade Name: ONRAB – Environmental Assessment* at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/veterinary-biologics/licensed-products/environmental-assessments/rabies-vaccine-onrab/eng/1351609458287/1351609994816>.