

## New Brunswick Wildlife Rabies Management Program

The following information is provided to assist in the event that domestic animals or people come across the oral rabies vaccine bait used in New Brunswick's Wildlife Oral Rabies Management Program.

### WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a viral disease that is fatal to mammals, including humans. Rabies is found worldwide, and certain wildlife species can carry different rabies strains (e.g. bats, raccoons, skunks and foxes). Signs of rabies in any animal may be drooling, difficulty walking, becoming tame and unafraid of people or becoming very aggressive and attacking people, pets, farm animals or other wildlife. People can get rabies when they are bitten by an infected animal. Signs of rabies in humans initially may start with a headache, fever, lethargy and progress to paralysis, spasms of the throat muscles, convulsions and death. If you should get bit by an animal, seek medical attention immediately.

### NEW BRUNSWICK'S WILDLIFE RABIES MANGEMENT PROGRAM

The program involves multiple steps.

**Point of infection control response:** Within 24-48 hours of receiving a positive rabies result, staff place ORV baits within a 5 km radius of the positive case. ORV baits are placed in areas where raccoons, skunk or fox are likely to find and consume the baits.

**Hand baiting:** In July, oral rabies baits are placed by hand in residential communities within the targeted areas. ORV baits are placed in spots where raccoons, skunks or fox are likely to find and consume the baits.

**Aerial baiting:** In August, oral rabies vaccine baits are distributed from a plane over remote portions of the rabies control area to provide a larger targeted area to help prevent rabies moving eastward.

The distribution of the ORV baits is done under a permit issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

### WHAT DOES THE ORAL RABIES VACCINE BAIT LOOK LIKE?



Photo courtesy of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



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The oral rabies vaccine bait is an army-green colour packet that has a waxy, fatty coating. Inside the bait is a food grade pouch containing the rabies vaccine (ONRAB®).

Exposure to the bait is not harmful to people or pets. In the unlikely event that a person or a pet comes into direct contact with the vaccine contained within the bait, consulting a doctor or veterinarian, as a precaution, is recommended.

### WHAT ARE THE BAIT INGREDIENTS?

The **outer green coating** of the bait:

The bait consists of an edible outer layer. The outer coating is made up of fat, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil, artificial marshmallow flavouring and dark green food grade dye.

A **food grade pouch** inside the bait:

A clear, thin pouch inside the bait contains the vaccine which is a liquid.

The **rabies vaccine**:

ONRAB® oral rabies vaccine is a recombinant live virus liquid vaccine with approximately 1.8 ±0.1 ml inside a pouch. The vaccine is clear in color and has vaccine stabilizers in its formulation. The oral rabies vaccine is targeted towards vaccinating skunk, fox, and raccoon.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF OTHER ANIMALS EAT THE BAIT?

There is no need for concern. If a single animal has eaten many baits, consult a veterinarian. The vaccine is not designed for pets (like dogs and cats) or livestock and will not immunize them. Your pets and livestock must receive an injection from a veterinarian to be vaccinated against rabies.

If your pet eats the bait, they may experience some stomach upset due to the fatty, waxy outside layer of the bait. To help prevent pets from eating baits keep dogs close to home on a leash for two weeks following the first day of aerial baiting in your area.

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### IF A PERSON SHOULD COME INTO CONTACT WITH BAITS?

If contact is made with the green bait, washing hands with warm soapy water is recommended. If the bait should accidentally break open, immediately wash hands to avoid irritation and avoid touching your face.

For more information, please visit [www.gnb.ca/rabies](http://www.gnb.ca/rabies) and if you have any questions, please call 506-444-4589.

Thank you,

Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries  
Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development  
Department of Health

