WS employees take samples from an anesthetized raccoon. Results of tests on the tissues will reveal whether or not this animal ingested enough rabies vaccine to be protected.

Future

WS’ NWRC in Fort Collins, CO, is a key component of the National Rabies Management Program. NWRC scientists investigate raccoon behavior, develop biomarkers and alternative vaccines, and research vaccination rates. NWRC researchers are also working on better baits to use for delivery of the oral rabies vaccine in raccoons. NWRC personnel are performing field studies in five States to evaluate the effectiveness of these experimental baits.

In collaboration with various universities, WS scientists are also conducting research on raccoon and skunk ecology in urban and rural settings and on gray fox ecology in Texas. Investigators are also working to develop better techniques to estimate raccoon density and to assess the effects of density and target population distribution on the placement of vaccine baits. Studies will soon be underway to evaluate the persistence of the protective rabies antibody once an animal has been vaccinated.

Field studies and research continue to be crucial to the accomplishments of the program. Success in south Texas with the canine variant of rabies has shown that elimination is possible. With the combined benefits of ongoing research and committed staff and cooperators, WS continues to reach milestones that bring the program closer to its ultimate rabies management goals.

What To Do If You Find One of Our Baits

If you come across a bait, please leave it where you found it. Do not attempt to remove a bait from your pet’s mouth; doing so may cause you to be bitten. Raboral V-RG is safe for more than 60 species, including domestic dogs and cats. The vaccine does not contain the live rabies virus.

If you come into contact with the pink liquid vaccine, wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water and call the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services office at 1–866–4–USDA–WS (1–866–487–3287) for further information and referral.

Determining the Effectiveness of the Program

After the baits have been distributed and raccoons have had a chance to find and consume them, WS works with cooperators to measure the success of every ORV campaign. Live traps are set throughout ORV zones with marshmallows, vanilla, sardines, and other attractants used to lure raccoons into the traps.

The traps are checked regularly and affixed with labels to inform the public about WS’ trap-and-release program. Wildlife biologists and technicians temporarily anesthetize every captured raccoon so that they can take blood samples and remove the first premolar, a small tooth. Once the effects of the anesthetic have worn off, the biologists release the captured raccoons back into the wild.

Next, WS sends all samples to cooperating Federal and State laboratories, where tests determine the rabies antibody level for each raccoon sample to see if the animal has had contact with the oral vaccine. In addition, WS submits all tooth samples to laboratories for sectioning to determine if they contain a tetracycline biomarker that indicates that the bait was ingested by the raccoon. When tetracycline is consumed, it stains teeth and bone.

WS employees take samples from an anesthetized raccoon. Results of tests on the tissues will reveal whether or not this animal ingested enough rabies vaccine to be protected.
A vaccination zone has been established stretching from Maine to Alabama to involve the use of oral rabies vaccination (ORV) of wildlife. ORV efforts are the most cost-effective way to distribute vaccine in rural areas. Here, WS employees load baits onto a fixed-wing aircraft.

Wildlife Services (WS) — a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service — works to limit the spread of rabies nationwide as part of its mission to minimize wildlife damage to agricultural, urban, and natural resources. An important part of WS’s mission includes cooperating in wildlife disease-management efforts in order to protect public health and safety.

WS established its National Rabies Management Program in recognition of the changing scope of efforts in order to protect public health and safety. An important part of WS’ mission includes cooperating in wildlife disease-management resources. An important part of WS’ mission includes cooperating in wildlife disease-management efforts in order to protect public health and safety.

Background

Raccoons are one of the most recognizable wildlife species. Whether you have seen raccoons on television or in your backyard, rummaging through a trashcan, they are easily identified by their black face mask and ringed tail. Although you might view them as cute and cuddly, raccoons are one of the species most often responsible for transmitting rabies and should be left alone. Rabies is always fatal; however, effective vaccines are available to protect people and pets. When a raccoon finds a bait and bites into it, the vaccine develop immunity to rabies. As the proportion of vaccinated raccoons that swallow an adequate dose of the vaccine increases, they act as a buffer to stop the spread of the disease to other wildlife, domestic animals, and people.

Distributing the Vaccine

The ORV baits, developed and manufactured by Merial Inc., in Athens, GA, consist of a sachet, or plastic packet, containing the Raboral V-RG® rabies vaccine. To make the baits attractive, the sachets containing vaccine are sprinkled with fishmeal coating or encased inside hard fishmeal-polymer blocks about the size of a matchbox. As other private companies work to develop and license effective vaccines, WS may integrate these baits into the program as well.

A vaccine distribution program as well. Since the year 2000, cooperative efforts between the United States and Canada have maintained a zone to contain raccoon rabies within its present boundaries. The northeastern part of WS’ program includes New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Baits are distributed along the border to prevent the northward spread of raccoon rabies in Canada.

Raccoons are one of the most recognizable wildlife species. Whether you have seen raccoons on television or in your backyard, rummaging through a trashcan, they are easily identified by their black face mask and ringed tail. Although you might view them as cute and cuddly, raccoons are one of the species most often responsible for transmitting rabies and should be left alone. Rabies is always fatal; however, effective vaccines are available to protect people and pets.

Distributing the Vaccine

The ORV baits, developed and manufactured by Merial Inc., in Athens, GA, consist of a sachet, or plastic packet, containing the Raboral V-RG® rabies vaccine. To make the baits attractive, the sachets containing vaccine are sprinkled with fishmeal coating or encased inside hard fishmeal-polymer blocks about the size of a matchbox. As other private companies work to develop and license effective vaccines, WS may integrate these baits into the program as well.

A vaccine distribution program as well. Since the year 2000, cooperative efforts between the United States and Canada have maintained a zone to contain raccoon rabies within its present boundaries. The northeastern part of WS’ program includes New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Baits are distributed along the border to prevent the northward spread of raccoon rabies in Canada.

Raccoons are one of the most recognizable wildlife species. Whether you have seen raccoons on television or in your backyard, rummaging through a trashcan, they are easily identified by their black face mask and ringed tail. Although you might view them as cute and cuddly, raccoons are one of the species most often responsible for transmitting raccoons to other wildlife. Raccoons and skunks account for the most reported cases, but bats, skunks, and foxes are also among the commonly infected wildlife species. The cost of living with raccoons in America is high and growing, exceeding $300 million per year. Although vaccines for other wildlife, domestic animals, and people.

Distributing the Vaccine

The ORV baits, developed and manufactured by Merial Inc., in Athens, GA, consist of a sachet, or plastic packet, containing the Raboral V-RG® rabies vaccine. To make the baits attractive, the sachets containing vaccine are sprinkled with fishmeal coating(778,818),(996,996) or encased inside hard fishmeal-polymer blocks about the size of a matchbox. As other private companies work to develop and license effective vaccines, WS may integrate these baits into the program as well.

A vaccine distribution program as well. Since the year 2000, cooperative efforts between the United States and Canada have maintained a zone to contain raccoon rabies within its present boundaries. The northeastern part of WS’ program includes New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Baits are distributed along the border to prevent the northward spread of raccoon rabies in Canada.

Raccoons are one of the most recognizable wildlife species. Whether you have seen raccoons on television or in your backyard, rummaging through a trashcan, they are easily identified by their black face mask and ringed tail. Although you might view them as cute and cuddly, raccoons are one of the species most often responsible for transmitting rabies and should be left alone. Rabies is always fatal; however, effective vaccines are available to protect people and pets.

Distributing the Vaccine

The ORV baits, developed and manufactured by Merial Inc., in Athens, GA, consist of a sachet, or plastic packet, containing the Raboral V-RG® rabies vaccine. To make the baits attractive, the sachets containing vaccine are sprinkled with fishmeal coating or encased inside hard fishmeal-polymer blocks about the size of a matchbox. As other private companies work to develop and license effective vaccines, WS may integrate these baits into the program as well.

A vaccine distribution program as well. Since the year 2000, cooperative efforts between the United States and Canada have maintained a zone to contain raccoon rabies within its present boundaries. The northeastern part of WS’ program includes New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Baits are distributed along the border to prevent the northward spread of raccoon rabies in Canada.

Raccoons are one of the most recognizable wildlife species. Whether you have seen raccoons on television or in your backyard, rummaging through a trashcan, they are easily identified by their black face mask and ringed tail. Although you might view them as cute and cuddly, raccoons are one of the species most often responsible for transmitting rabies and should be left alone. Rabies is always fatal; however, effective vaccines are available to protect people and pets. When a raccoon finds a bait and bites into it, the raccoon movements in the Northeastern United States are a concern as well. Since the year 2000, cooperative efforts between the United States and Canada have maintained a zone to contain raccoon rabies within its present boundaries. The northeastern part of WS’ program includes New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Baits are distributed along the border to prevent the northward spread of raccoon rabies in Canada.

A vaccination zone has been established stretching from Maine to Alabama to prevent the westward spread of the virus that causes raccoon rabies.