

HE-C3

Ministry of
Natural Resources

Ministère des
Richesses Naturelles



June 25, 2009

Good Afternoon,

To protect the people of Ontario against rabies, the province will begin its annual wildlife rabies control operations for 2009 on August 4th, 2009.

This ministry is committed to the research, control and eradication of rabies in Ontario, thereby protecting the health and safety of the public, their pets and the wildlife of this province. Ontario's programs are so successful that broad areas of southern Ontario are free of fox and raccoon rabies.

If a person is exposed to rabies and does not receive emergency treatment, the disease is always fatal.

The province uses a number of control measures in the fight against the deadly rabies virus. The planned activities for the 2009 season include:

- ground 'urban' baiting in Niagara area - projected to start in early August
- aerial baiting over the St. Lawrence Islands – one day only in mid-August
- large scale baiting in southwestern Ontario - projected to start mid-September
- control measures at the point of infection – only to take place in the event of a raccoon rabies incident

Cases of fox-strain rabies have dropped dramatically across Ontario to only 41 cases in 2008, down from 1,500 before control measures were implemented in 1989, a 97 per cent drop. The last confirmed case of raccoon rabies case in the province occurred in September 2005. According to the World Organization for Animal Health, with over two years since the last case of the raccoon strain, Ontario can now confirm that raccoon rabies has been eliminated from the province.

The rabies control program is a joint effort that receives important input from a variety of partners across Ontario. Regional health units, municipalities, wildlife rehabilitators, licensed trappers, wildlife control agents and aboriginal communities are all key to the continued success of Ontario's world-renowned rabies control program.

For further information about rabies prevention and control operations and to view updated maps, visit the Rabies in Ontario web site at www.ontario.ca/rabies or call our rabies hotline at 1-888-574-6656.

Sincerely,

Natalie Gorman

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Council
Environment, Transportation and Planning Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employee and Business Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File
Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peel Living	<input type="checkbox"/>

REFERRAL TO _____

RECOMMENDED _____

DIRECTION REQUIRED _____

RECEIPT RECOMMENDED