



**Community
Health Services
Department**

CONTINGENCY PLAN
RACCOON RABIES

for the

COUNTY OF LAMBTON

(Revised March 2004)

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Critical Information Sheet

Response Team Lead

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Assistant Response Team Lead

Name: Chad Ikert
Position: Public Health Inspector, Rabies Team Leader

Contact Information	
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In the event of a confirmed case of raccoon rabies in your region, follow the first steps below initiate the contingency plan.

First Steps:

- 1) Contact MNR to confirm emergency control program ([Appendix 1](#))
- 2) Contact MOHLTC to confirm notification
- 3) Call emergency meeting of planning team (see [Planning Team Contacts](#))
- 4) Notification to public (see [Appendix 7](#))

Section 1: General Information

FOREWORD

The purpose of this document is to provide a coordinated action plan to cope with the threat posed by raccoon rabies.

This plan is not a strategy to deal with wildlife conflict (nuisance animals) in the community. A “nuisance” animal is any animal that is in conflict with use or enjoyment of property or facilities.

As our towns and cities grow, we occupy more and more animals’ habitat. It is therefore not unusual to see a healthy raccoon or fox in close proximity to built-up areas.

This document is focused on early detection and monitoring of the raccoon strain of rabies and the coordination of the various agencies involved in its control should the raccoon strain of rabies be confirmed in the area covered by this plan.

EMERGENCY READINESS

Raccoons carrying the raccoon strain of rabies have been identified in Ontario.

Ontario has a large raccoon population. Now that raccoon strain of rabies has arrived, it is important for Ontario residents, especially those in urban areas, to understand raccoon rabies and how to protect themselves and their families against the disease.

In Ontario, **there is no single agency** with the staff and financial resources to unilaterally undertake comprehensive emergency planning. A **high degree of cooperation** amongst various government agencies and the public **is required** to achieve an acceptable level of emergency readiness.

If the protocols set out in this document are respected by the participant agencies/ organizations, the significant **health risks** associated with raccoon rabies **can be significantly reduced**. These protocols can also form the basis of a higher level of awareness and emergency readiness.

The plan will set out actions to:

- a) reduce the potential for entry of more raccoon rabies into Eastern Ontario Health Unit jurisdiction (**Prevention & Detection**);
- b) slow its spread beyond any initial outbreak (**Control**); and
- c) inform the public and the various agencies to enable them to take appropriate action (**Education & Communication**).

PLANNING TEAM CONTACTS

For information related to the contents of this plan please contact the following individuals:

- **Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Rabies Research & Development Unit**

Adam McAllister: Tel: 705-755-1551
Cell:
Email: adam.mcallister@mnr.gov.on.ca

Dennis Donovan: Tel: 705-755-2273
Cell:
Email: dennis.donovan@mnr.gov.on.ca

- **Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) District Office**

Daryl Smith
Information Officer: Tel: 519-585-1896
Email: daryl.smith@mnr.gov.on.ca

Don Hector
District Representative Tel: 519-354-8210
Cell:
Email: don.hector@mnr.gov.on.ca

- **Community Health Services Department**

Joan Beaudet: Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 516
Cell:
Email: joan.beaudet@county-lambton.on.ca

Chad Ikert: Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745
Pager:
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

- **Ontario Provincial Police**

Staff Sergeant
Lambton O.P.P. Tel: 519-882-1011

- **Sarnia Police**

Staff Sergeant

Tel: 519-344-8861

- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

Dr. Susan Wray:

Tel: 519-332-3031

Pager:

Email: wrays@inspection.gc.ca

Section 2: Contingency Planning

ACTION CHECKLIST

Action #	Description	Responsibility	Completed (Yes or No)
1.1	Co-ord. pet vaccination clinics	Regional Health Unit	
1.2	Info to schools	Regional Health Unit	
1.3	Animal control by-laws	Municipalities	
1.4	Stray animal control	Municipalities	
1.5	Info notices to high volume/risk areas	Regional Health Unit	
1.6	Assistance to First Nations for planning	Ministry of Natural Resources	
1.7	Create list of high volume/risk areas	Regional Health Unit	
1.8	Annual review of contingency plan	Regional Health Unit	
2.1	Distribute call referral chart	Regional Health Unit	
2.2	Responsive lab analysis	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	
2.3	Mailing list for Rabies Reporter	Ministry of Natural Resources	
2.4	Toll-Free MOHLTC Hotline	Ministry of Health	
3.1	Point Infection Control	Ministry of Natural Resources	
3.2	Implement High Risk Area	Ministry of Natural Resources	
3.3	News Release	Regional Health Unit	
4.1	Media comm. panel	Regional Health Unit	
4.2	Notification to senior officials	Planning Team	
4.3	Coordinate comm. efforts to public	Regional Health Unit	
4.4	Committee to share between RHUs	Regional Health Unit	
4.5	Maps	Ministry of Natural Resources	
4.6	Info on current wildlife policies	Ministry of Natural Resources	
4.7	Info to doctor and vet offices	Regional Health Unit	
4.8	In-service for front-line workers	Ministry of Natural Resources	

PREVENTION - OBJECTIVE 1.0

GOALS

Prevention of raccoon rabies from entering the community or from being spread

Raccoon rabies will enter a new area in one of two ways:

- 1) Human-assisted movement (i.e. relocation)
- 2) Natural movement of the species (i.e. looking for a new home/ food)

Raccoons may forge rivers at bridges and dams or “hitch-hike” on recreational and commercial vehicles traveling in Ontario. Areas fronting the St. Lawrence River and Niagara River will be at higher risk due to the prevalence of the disease in New York State.

ACTION LIST

Action 1.1

The Community Health Services Department will coordinate annual clinics to have pets vaccinated against rabies in early spring of each year. Additional emergency clinics will be arranged if required. Joint public relations efforts will also promote the vaccination of all domestic pets, especially cats, at any time throughout the year.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Chad Ikert
Public Health Inspector
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 1.2

Distribute information packages to children on raccoon rabies via school boards, through new or existing Community Health Services Department’s programs.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Chad Ikert
Public Health Inspector
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745

Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

Note: *Resource materials from all agencies related to rabies will be consolidated by the Community Health Services Department.*

Action 1.3

Request municipalities to pass animal control by-laws and issue reminders to pet-owners on an annual basis regarding the pet owners' legal responsibility for rabies vaccinations of pets.

Responsibility:	Municipalities	
Contact:	Township of Brooke-Alvinston Clerk (519)898-2173 ph. (519)898-5653 fax	Town of Plympton-Wyoming Clerk (519)845-3939 ph. (519)845-0597 fax
	Township of Dawn-Euphemia Clerk (519)692-5148 ph. (519)692-5511 fax	Village of Point Edward Clerk (519)337-3021 ph. (519)337-5963 fax
	Township of Enniskillen Clerk (519)882-2490 ph. (519)882-3355 fax	City of Sarnia Clerk (519)332-0330 ph. (519)332-3995 fax
	City of Lambton Shores Clerk (519)786-2335 ph. (519)786-2135 fax	Township of St. Clair Clerk (519)867-2021 ph. (519)867-5509 fax
	Village of Oil Springs Clerk (519)834-2929 ph. (519)834-2333 fax	Township of Warwick Clerk (519)849-3926 ph. (519)849-6136 fax
	Town of Petrolia Clerk (519)882-2350 ph. (519)882-3373 fax	

Action 1.4

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals/ other related organizations and municipalities will undertake efforts to control stray dogs and cats.

Responsibility: Sarnia and District Humane Society

Contact: Marilyn Horner
Manager
Tel: 519-344-7064
Fax: 519-344-6476

Action 1.5

Create and distribute information notice to key areas listed in [Appendix 8](#) as high volume / risk areas, as well as along main transportation routes, i.e. truck stops.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Chad Ikert
Public Health Inspector
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 1.6

Provide information and assistance to local First Nations to coordinate raccoon rabies plans that complement this planning effort.

Responsibility: Ministry of Natural Resources

Contact: Don Hector
MNR District Representative
Tel: 519-354-8210
Email: don.hector@mnr.gov.on.ca

Action 1.7

Create a list of high traffic routes and high volume/risk areas and include in [Appendix 8](#).

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Chad Ikert
Public Health Inspector
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 1.8

This plan should be kept current with an annual review and made available in PDF format electronically, on CD and on paper. Planning team meetings should occur annually for those regional health units with cases of raccoon rabies in or adjacent to their area.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Chad Ikert
Public Health Inspector
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

DETECTION- OBJECTIVE 2.0

GOALS

Discover an outbreak of raccoon rabies as early as possible

It is critical to the implementation of this plan to detect, at the earliest possible stage, the first case of raccoon rabies in the community. A veterinarian of Canadian Food Inspection Agency will notify the lead contacts contained in this contingency plan to activate control measures outlined in the next section ([Objective 3.0](#)).

ACTION LIST

Action 2.1

Ensure animals exhibiting symptoms of rabies are immediately reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency through distribution of Referral Chart in [Appendix 2](#) to partner agencies.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Chad Ikert
Public Health Inspector
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 2.2

Ensure responsive lab analysis to animals exhibiting potential symptoms of raccoon rabies.

Responsibility: Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Contact: Dr. Susan Wray
District Veterinarian
Tel: 519-332-3031
Fax: 519-332-3879
Pager:
Email: wrays@inspection.gc.ca

- Any organization or agency receiving information that indicates a probable case of raccoon rabies shall notify Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- In the event of actual physical contact with a raccoon, fox, or skunk, the public should contact a physician or the Community Health Services Department at 1-519-383-8331.
- “Nuisance animal” callers shall be referred according to the referral chart provided in Appendix 2 or to the fact sheets available in this report (Appendix 6) or online at: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/csb/news/jan5cfs99.html>

Action 2.3

Regional health units may request inclusion on mailing list for the “Rabies Reporter”, available by e-mail at <http://rabies.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/rabies>.

Responsibility:	Ministry of Natural Resources
Contact:	Adam McAllister Information Officer MNR, Rabies Research & Development Unit Tel: 705-755-1551

Action 2.4

In the event that raccoon rabies becomes established in Lambton County, the Ministry of Health’s existing direct access information telephone line shall be communicated to the general public should raccoon rabies be perceived as a significant health risk.

Responsibility:	Ministry of Health & Long Term Care
Contact:	Dr. Dean Middleton DVM. Tel: 416-327-7422 Joan Beaudet Community Health Services Department Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 516 Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839

CONTROL - OBJECTIVE 3.0

GOALS

To control or eliminate the spread of infection from a point outbreak

ACTION LIST

Many items identified under "[Prevention – Objective 1.0](#)" have potential to slow the spread of the disease in the community.

Action 3.1

Implement control efforts at the point of infection. Refer to fact sheet on Point Infection Control in [Appendix 6](#).

Responsibility: Ministry of Natural Resources

Contact: Adam McAllister
Information Officer
MNR, Rabies Research & Development Unit
Tel: 705-755-1551

Action 3.2

Implement high-risk area policies for restricted rehabilitation and/or relocation of rabies vector species (raccoon, fox, skunk).

Responsibility: Ministry of Natural Resources

Contact: Adam McAllister
Information Officer
MNR, Rabies Research & Development Unit
Tel: 705-755-1551

Action 3.3

Prepare a public advisory for immediate release to the media based on the template prepared in Appendix 7.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact:

Chad Ikert
Public Health Inspector
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 745
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION- OBJECTIVE 4.0

GOALS

Facilitate prompt, effective action in response to individual rabies cases.

Provide effective communication to the public and partner agencies for dealing with rabies response and control.

Many items identified under "[Prevention – Objective 1.0](#)" will assist in the communication and education efforts surrounding a rabies outbreak.

ACTION LIST

Action 4.1

Depending on the location of the case, i.e. major city, a media communications panel should be implemented. This panel should include representatives from MNR Rabies Research and Development Unit, the chief or local medical officer of health, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the municipality.

Responsibility:	Community Health Services Department
Contact:	Joan Beaudet Supervisor, Environmental Health & Prevention Services Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 516 Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839 Email: joan.beaudet@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 4.2

Notify senior government/agency officials of new outbreaks in previously unaffected areas.

Responsibility:	All planning team members
Contact:	See Planning Team Contact List

Action 4.3

Coordinate distribution to media of news release, fact sheets and other background information on raccoon rabies. Also post rabies advertisement in local/weekly papers. Regional Health Unit may choose to promote awareness on public TV, i.e. news text

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Joan Beaudet
Supervisor, Environmental Health & Prevention Services
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 516
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: joan.beaudet@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 4.4

In areas where several regional health units encounter a raccoon rabies outbreak, MOHLTC will chair a committee to ensure co-coordinated and strategic efforts to control the outbreak. This will ensure the necessary cooperation between several different planning teams and will provide the best chance to contain the outbreak and communicate effectively with the public.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Joan Beaudet,
Supervisor, Environmental Health & Prevention Services
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 516
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: joan.beaudet@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 4.5

Supply consistent visuals for communication and education efforts. Maps will be created to demonstrate the new affected areas and general location of cases. As well, maps outlining new high-risk areas will be supplied.

Responsibility: Ministry of Natural Resources

Contact: Adam McAllister
Information Officer

MNR, Rabies Research & Development Unit
Tel: 705-755-1551

Action 4.6

Supply information on current wildlife relocation policies, wildlife rehabilitation and/or other changes for an area affected by a new outbreak to partner agencies.

Responsibility: Ministry of Natural Resources

Contact: Adam McAllister
Information Officer
MNR, Rabies Research & Development Unit
Tel: 705-755-1551

Action 4.7

Distribute information on raccoon rabies to doctor's offices and veterinary clinics.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Joan Beaudet
Supervisor, Environmental Health & Prevention Services
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 516
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: joan.beaudet@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 4.8

In the event of a rabies outbreak within or adjacent to the regional health unit, an in-service will be held for all public health inspection staff and municipal workers on rabies and outbreak control.

Responsibility: Community Health Services Department

Contact: Joan Beaudet
Supervisor, Environmental Health & Prevention Services
Tel: 519-383-8331 ext. 516
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1839
Email: joan.beaudet@county-lambton.on.ca

Action 4.8

In the event of a rabies outbreak within or adjacent to the regional health unit, an in-service will be held for all wildlife control operators, wildlife rehabilitators and municipal workers on humane wildlife control, wildlife rehabilitation etc. and the changes to new or existing policies as a result of the outbreak.

Responsibility: Ministry of Natural Resources

Contact: Adam McAllister
Information Officer
MNR, Rabies Research & Development Unit
Tel: 705- 755-1551

Section 3: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Key Operational Contacts

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

Contact Information	
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Fax	519-383-7092
Mobile Phone	
Toll-Free	1-800-667-1839
Email	joan.beaudet@county-lambton.on.ca

Contact Information	
Name	Chad Ikert
Title	Public Health Inspector
Address	160 Exmouth Street Point Edward, ON N7T 7Z6
Work Phone	519-383-8331 ext. 745
Fax	519-383-7092
Pager	
Toll-Free	1-800-667-1839
Email	chad.ikert@county-lambton.on.ca

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE:

Contact Information	
Name	Dr. Dean Middleton
Title	Veterinary Consultant
Address	Disease Control Service, Public Health Branch Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care 8th Floor, 5700 Yonge Street Toronto, ON, M2M 4K5
Work Phone	416-327-7422
Fax	416-327-7439
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	Dean.Middleton@moh.gov.on.ca

Contact Information	
Name	Sharon Balsys
Title	Communications Advisor
Address	Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Hepburn Block Toronto, ON
Work Phone	416-327-4381
Fax	416-377-3858
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	Sharon.balsys@moh.gov.on.ca

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES – RABIES R&D UNIT:

Contact Information	
Name	Dennis Donovan
Title	Coordinator, Rabies Research & Development Unit
Address	Ministry of Natural Resources Rabies Research and Development Unit Trent University Peterborough, ON
Work Phone	705-755-2273
Fax	705-755-2288
Mobile Phone	
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	dennis.donovan@mnr.gov.on.ca

Contact Information	
Name	Adam McAllister
Title	Information Officer, Rabies Research & Development Unit
Address	Ministry of Natural Resources 300 Water Street, 3 rd Floor, North Tower Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5
Work Phone	705-755-1551
Fax	705-755-1559
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	adam.mcallister@mnr.gov.on.ca

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES – DISTRICT OFFICE:

Contact Information	
Name	Don Hector
Title	Management Biologist/District Representative
Address	870 Richmond St. West Chatham, ON N7M 5J5
Work Phone	519-354-8210
Fax	519-354-0313
Mobile Phone	
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	don.hector@mnr.gov.on.ca

RABIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Contact Information	
Name	Dr. Michael Corriveau
Title	Medical Officer of Health for Renfrew
Address	Renfrew County and District Health Unit 7 International Drive Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5
Work Phone	613-735-8650 ext. 503
Fax	n/a
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	1-800-267-1097
Email	mcorriveau@redhu.com

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD:

Contact Information	
Name	Dr. Dave Alves
Title	Manager, Veterinary Sciences/Provincial Veterinarian
Address	1 Stone Road West 3 North East Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2
Work Phone	519-826-3127
Fax	519-826-3254
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	1-888-466-2372 ext. 63127
Email	david.alves@omaf.gov.on.ca

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY:

Contact Information	
Name	Dr. Elliot Salsberg
Title	Program Specialist, Epidemiology
Address	174 Stone Road West Guelph, ON N1G 4S9
Work Phone	519-837-9400 ext. 2064
Fax	519-837-9771
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	salsberge@inspection.gc.ca

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE:

Contact Information	
Name	Lambton O.P.P. Headquarters
Title	Staff Sergeant
Address	4224 Oil Heritage Road Petrolia, ON N0N 1R0
Work Phone	519-882-1011
Fax	519-882-1014
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	1-888-310-1122
Email	n/a

MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCES:

Contact Information	
Name	Sarnia Police Service
Title	Staff Sergeant
Address	555 Christina Street North Sarnia, ON N7T 7X6
Work Phone	519-344-8861
Fax	519-344-6001
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	n/a

ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS:

Contact Information	
Name	Marilyn Horner
Title	Manager, Sarnia and District Humane Society
Address	131 Exmouth St. Sarnia, ON N7T 7W8
Work Phone	519-344-7064
Fax	519-344-6476
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	n/a

LOCAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS:

Contact Information	
Name	Lynn Eves
Title	Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation
Address	5295 Egremont Rd. Forest, ON N0N 1J0
Work Phone	519-899-2443
Fax	n/a
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	n/a

MUNICIPALITY:

Contact Information	
Name	(See information listed on page 11)
Title	
Address	
Work Phone	
Fax	
Mobile Phone	
Toll-Free	
Email	

LOCAL TRAPPERS COUNCIL:

Contact Information	
Name	Stan Powell
Title	Executive Member – Chatham & District Trapper’s Council
Address	5101 Techumseh Line RR#2 Tilbury, ON N0P 2L0
Work Phone	
Fax	n/a
Mobile Phone	n/a
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	n/a

HEALTH CANADA/FIRST NATIONS:

Contact Information	
Name	Dan McMillan
Title	Environmental Health Officer/First Nations Health Representative
Address	457 Richmond St. Suite 103 London, ON N6A 3E3
Work Phone	519-645-5886
Fax	519-645-5169
Mobile Phone	
Toll-Free	n/a
Email	dan_mcmillan@hc-sc.gc.ca

APPENDIX 2: Public Requests for Assistance

For contact with:

1. **Stray/ domestic pets** – if there has not been any physical contact with people or other animals – local municipal animal control or the local police may be called for advice.
2. **Wild animals** – if there has not been any physical contact with people or other animals – determine if the animal is showing symptoms of rabies or if the animal has just wandered into an area where it is not normally found.
 - If the animal is not exhibiting symptoms, allow it to leave the area and remove anything, which may be attracting it such as garbage and block off possible denning areas (under steps, porches, etc.).
 - If the animal is showing symptoms of rabies, immediately notify the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Contact the local MNR office regarding the FWCA and regulations to dispatch wild animals that are threatening property or health and safety. Then have the animal destroyed and bury or burn the carcass. Be sure to avoid skin contact. Household bleach can be used to disinfect tools used. If this is not possible, call your municipality or local police detachment for assistance.
 - Raccoons showing symptoms of rabies may be of interest to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for monitoring the presence of raccoon rabies.
 - **IMPORTANT**
Do not damage the brain of the animal, eg. do not shoot animal in the head, which is to be used for testing. Contact CFIA for advice. Refer callers to the document “Rabies Questions and Answers” ([Appendix 6](#)) or 1-800-667-1940 or to the MNR Rabies website at <http://rabies.mnr.gov.on.ca>
3. **Human contact** - if there was contact made with the suspect animal, immediately call the Community Health Services Department and seek medical attention from a medical doctor. If the suspect animal is a domestic animal or pet, have the owner isolate the animal and call the municipal animal control or police.
4. **Livestock** - if physical contact was between the suspect animal and livestock, call CFIA and if it is a wild animal, destroy the animal if it is safe to do so.
5. **Nuisance Animals** - If a wild animal is simply a nuisance or causing damage to your property, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources for advice on control options or contact your local municipality.

APPENDIX 3: Background Information on Raccoons and Raccoon Rabies

Raccoon Facts

- Raccoons are part of the same family as the giant panda of Asia and are native only to North America.
- The name raccoon come from the Algonquin word arouhcum, meaning small scratching hands. The scientific name is Procyon lotor, Greek for washing dog.
- Raccoons are most active at dawn and dusk. However, raccoons in large cities often have adapted to an urban setting and may be seen during the day.
- Raccoons do not hibernate. They do not sleep for most of the winter and venture out on warmer days to search for food.
- Raccoons are omnivores and will eat a variety of foods, including garbage.
- Mating takes place in February or March and a litter of four to six kits is born in May. The kits venture out of their den in June.
- In rural areas, raccoons claim large territories with numbers from 6 – 12 per square kilometer. In urban areas, their population density ranges from 8 – 18 raccoons per square kilometer, with some areas in major cities having as many as 80 per square kilometer.
- In urban areas raccoons thrive due to the availability of food (garbage). They have adapted to the habitat restrictions and have larger litters of kits, they are bigger and perhaps survive longer than in rural areas. It is illegal to keep raccoons as pets. In addition, as pets, they would be a health threat.

A Brief History of Rabies in Ontario

Rabies is an infectious and contagious disease of the central nervous system. It has been known since the ancient days of 2300 B.C. This lethal virus still exists in almost all parts of the world.

Once infected, and left untreated, this disease is fatal. The rabies virus is concentrated in the saliva, mucus membranes and central nervous tissue of a rabid animal. Only humans, and other mammals, can become infected through a cut or scratch from an animal with rabies, or if the rabies virus comes in contact with the moist tissues of the mouth, nose or eyes.

There are two ways that rabies symptoms appear, dumb and furious. Both can cause abnormal behavior. Immediately prior to death, animals with furious rabies will appear to be 'mad': frothing at the mouth and biting anything that gets in their way. They may show extreme excitement and attack stationary things or animals. Bouts of furious rabies usually alternate with periods of depression.

In dumb rabies, there is no 'mad' period. With dumb rabies, paralysis, usually of the lower jaw, and a drooping head are the first sign of the disease. The paralysis quickly spreads to limbs and vital organs and death quickly follows. Animals with dumb rabies may become depressed and retreat to isolated places. Some may appear 'tame', having no fear of humans.

At one time, Ontario was known as the 'Rabies Capital of North America' due to the high number of rabid animals reported. Since 1992, the number of rabies cases has declined. In Ontario, the primary concerns are with terrestrial rabies (Arctic fox strain and mid-Atlantic raccoon strain) but does have bat strain rabies as well.

Arctic Fox Strain

This strain of rabies invaded southern Ontario, between 1954 and 1959, from northern Ontario and Quebec. In northern Ontario, the disease disappeared in 1972 but reappeared in 1989. It was eliminated from southeastern Ontario, but still persists in a small area of southwestern Ontario.

Raccoon Strain

This strain of rabies (mid-Atlantic) was first reported in Florida in 1947, remained in the southeastern coastal parts of the USA until 1977, and then began to rapidly spread northward. It entered Ontario in July 1999. It was first discovered in a juvenile raccoon found dead in a dog kennel, just northwest of Prescott. To date (November 2003), 127 cases have been reported in this same area. Wolfe Island near Kingston was held at six cases during December 1999 and January 2000, and has been rabies free for more than two years.

Bat Strain

These strains of rabies were first diagnosed in Ontario in 1961. There are eight species of bats in Ontario, all of which have their own strain of the disease, but the most common are Little Brown bat, Big Brown bat, and Silver-haired bat. Although bats are the most widely distributed mammal, less than 2% of bats submitted for testing have rabies. In the overall population, this percentage would be much lower.

APPENDIX 4: Visuals

For additional or current maps, please visit <http://rabies.mnr.gov.on.ca> and click on Maps

Raccoon Rabies High-Risk Area (2003) Map

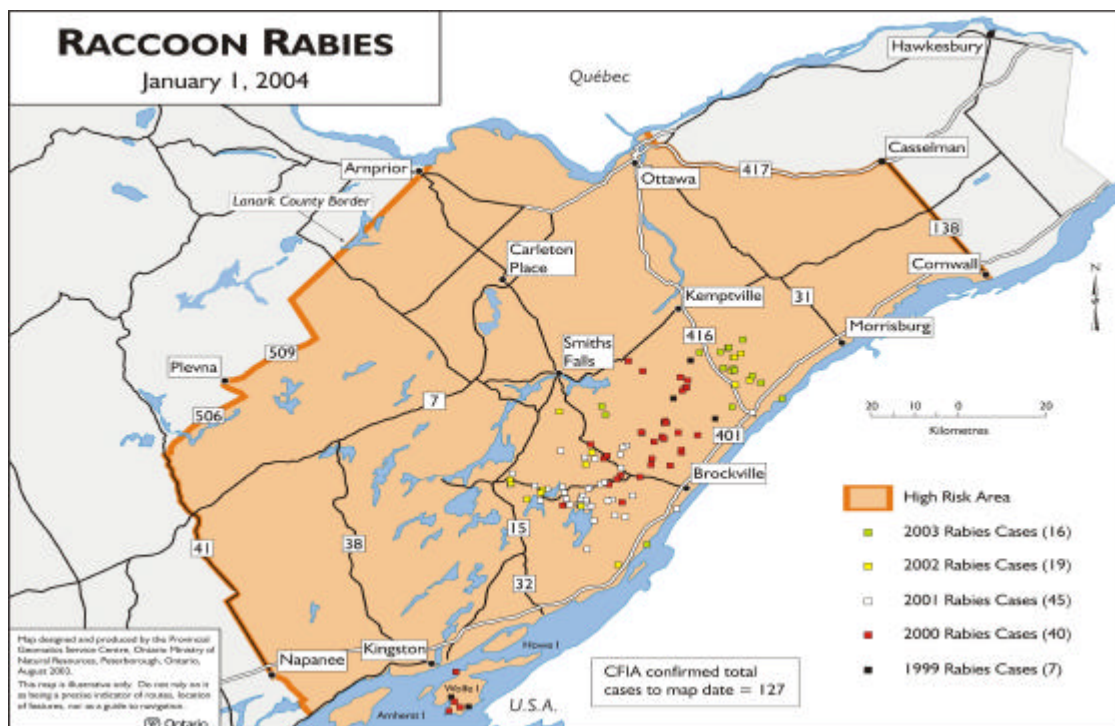
This map depicts the high-risk area for raccoon rabies in Ontario. The exact boundaries are described in [Explicit Definition of High-Risk Area Boundaries](#).

On the map names are provided for certain towns and cities, for example, Ottawa, Kingston and Cornwall.

The raccoon rabies cases are identified by year using different colours for each year. A total of 118 CFIA confirmed cases appear on the map with 7 in 1999, 40 in 2000, 45 in 2001, 19 in 2002 and 7 as of May 1, 2003.

Most cases fall into a rectangular area within the high-risk area. This area can be roughly described by the following boundaries. From the St. Lawrence River up Highway 15 to Smiths Falls, then along Highway 43 to Kemptville and down Highway 16 back to the St. Lawrence River. There are two exceptions. One is on Wolfe Island, near Kingston, that had 6 cases between 1999 and 2000. The other exception is east of Highway 16, about halfway between Kemptville and the St. Lawrence River. These cases are the most recent and the closest to Ottawa.

The map was designed and produced by the Provincial Geomatics Centre, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, Ontario in February of 2003. The map is illustrative only and should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes, location of features, nor as a guide to navigation.



[Rabies Control Operations Map \(2003\)](#)

This map is a depiction of the proposed areas for operations in 2003 to combat the rabies virus in Ontario. The map area borders Sault Ste. Marie on the west, Cochrane on the north, and the southern and eastern extent of the province.

The Fox vaccine baiting area is shown in 1 block on the map. From Owen Sound down to London, with the borders along Lake Huron and Hamilton up to Wasaga Beach on Georgian Bay.

The Raccoon vaccine baiting area occurs in only one area of the province, near the southeastern portion of the province that lies between New York State and Quebec. This area runs from Kingston up along the Lanark county border, almost to the Ottawa River and then due east back to the St. Lawrence River. This is the only area in which raccoon rabies has occurred in Ontario as of May 1, 2003.

Also depicted are the areas in which the Trap-Vaccinate-Release program is carried out. There are two areas, one long band that runs along the St-Lawrence River from Highway 16 to Wolfe Island, near Kingston; and the second a shorter, thicker band on the border with the United States near Niagara Falls.

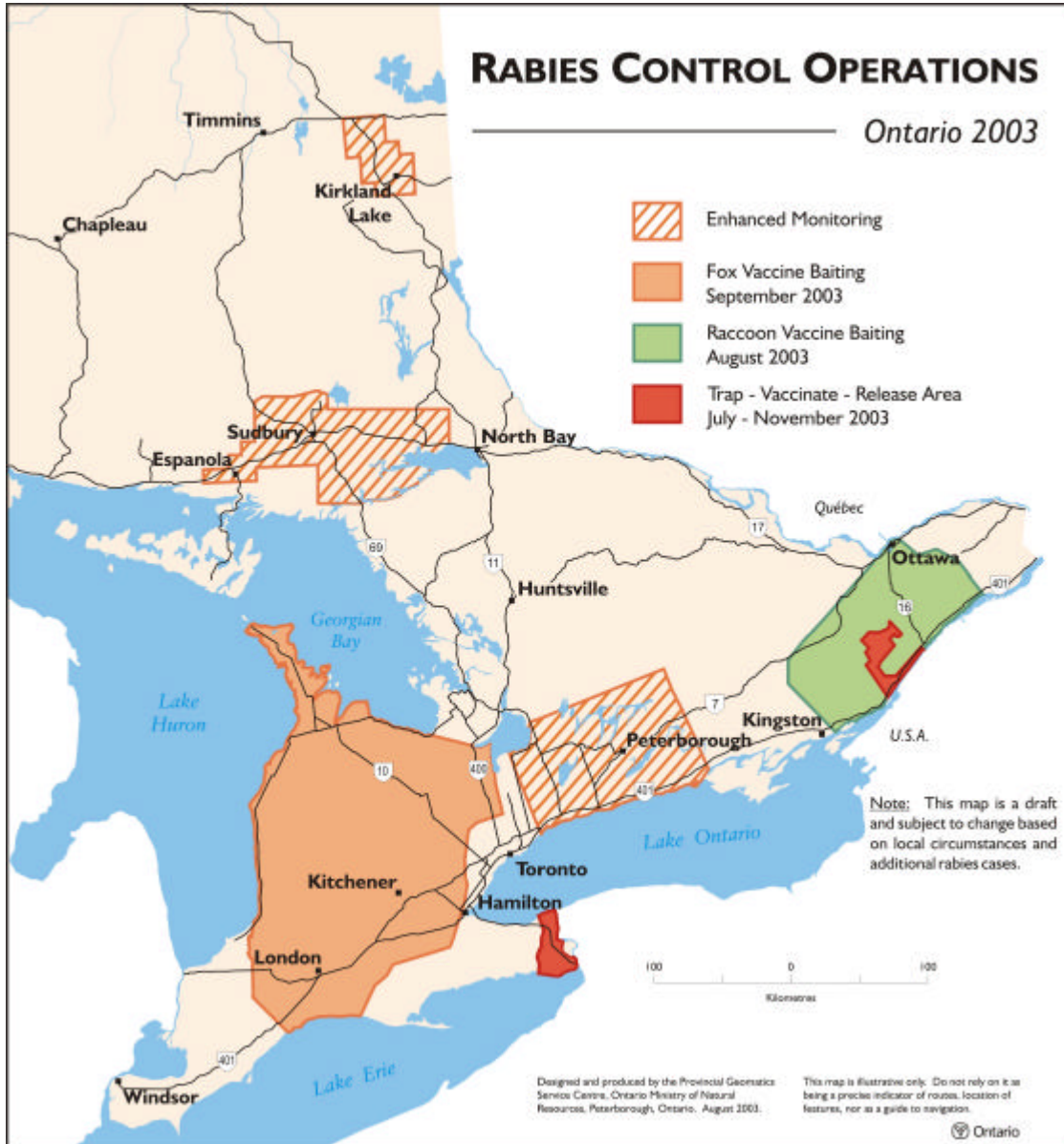
As well, Enhanced Monitoring Areas where the vaccine baiting program has been effective are depicted. The three areas range in size and are located as follows:

near the community of Kirkland Lake

stretching from Espanola to North Bay

around Peterborough, stretching from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe and almost to the eastern edge of Toronto

The map was designed and produced by the Provincial Geomatics Centre, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Peterborough, Ontario in April of 2003. The map is illustrative only and should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes, location of features, nor as a guide to navigation.



APPENDIX 5 : Raccoon Rabies Questions & Answers

Visit <http://rabies.mnr.gov.on.ca>

- Click here to view [raccoon rabies questions and answers](#).

Note: For hard copies of this plan, please print the file and include it with the rest of this community contingency plan.

APPENDIX 6 : Raccoon Rabies Fact Sheets

Visit <http://rabies.mnr.gov.on.ca> to ensure the most current information is used.

- Click here to view the [Rabies Symptoms and Treatments Backgrounder](#).
- Click here to view the [Protecting Your Family and Your Pets Fact Sheet](#).
- Click here to view the [Cats, Dogs and Other Pets – A Link with Rabies Backgrounder](#)
- Click here to view the [Raccoon Rabies – The Facts Fact Sheet](#).
- Click here to view the [Discourage Raccoons From Moving In Fact Sheet](#).

Note: For hard copies of this plan, please print the files and include it with the rest of this community contingency plan.

APPENDIX 7: Raccoon Rabies News Release

Media Advisory

(Insert Name) Health Unit

The Ministry of Natural Resources has released information regarding the first case of raccoon rabies in the County of Lambton. Rabies is an infectious and contagious disease of the central nervous system. If left untreated, it is fatal. For additional information, the County of Lambton, Community Health Services Department is available for assistance on public health issues related to rabies. A general information package on rabies and raccoon rabies is available from the health department.

If you require information on protecting people and their pets, call:
1-519-383-8331 or 1-800-667-1839.

For information on operations to control the spread of the raccoon rabies in the area, call:

Ministry of Natural Resources
Rabies Research and Development Unit
Information Officer
(705) 755-1551

or visit <http://rabies.mnr.gov.on.ca>

APPENDIX 8: List of High Volume / Risk Areas

- List of main transportation routes
 - main commercial truck routes – Hwy 402, 40 Hwy, 21 Hwy, 80 Hwy, 79 Hwy
 - boat routes – St. Clair River, ferry crossings (Sombra, Walpole Island)
 - train traffic – CN train tunnels, CNR railways and railyards

- List of high volume / risk areas
 - Bluewater Bridge/Canada Customs
 - Ferry crossings – Sombra, Walpole Island
 - Pinery Provincial Park
 - St. Clair Conservation Authority/Campgrounds, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
 - Marinas – Sarnia Bay Marina, Bridgeview Marina, Lake Huron Yachts Ltd., Lighthouse Marine, Ecarte Marine
 - First Nations – Walpole Island, Aamjiwnaang, Kettle Point
 - Truck stops – Sarnia Truck Stop, 402 MTO Inspection Station, Canada Customs Compound
 - Lambton County restaurants with outside dumpsters
 - Garbage disposal and recycling facilities – Dawn landfill, Moore landfill, Canadian Waste Services (Petrolia), Canadian Waste Services (Warwick)