



RESOLUTION NUMBER: 17 **APPROVED**

SOURCE: **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND RABIES**

SUBJECT MATTER: **Elimination of Raccoon Rabies in the Northeast Region of North America (United States and Canada)**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick have effectively eliminated raccoon and fox variants of rabies virus with the implementation of effective rabies control strategies, including oral rabies vaccination. Success has also been realized in New York State with the extirpation of terrestrial rabies in New York City Parks and two heavily-populated Long Island counties. The Northeastern United States (U.S.) including New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and portions of New Jersey, provides the best opportunity to expand the geographic area leading to terrestrial rabies elimination.

State, provincial, federal (Canadian) and local county funding has leveraged U.S. federal funding to support rabies control efforts in the northeastern states since the mid-1990's. Natural geographical barriers (i.e., Great Lakes, Adirondack, Green and White Mountain ranges, spruce-fir eco-zone, and Atlantic Ocean) will contribute to a rapid and economical rabies elimination program. Additional factors expected to facilitate successful pathogen elimination are close proximity to the coast and viral infection pressure only from the south.

Phase 1, viral containment, of the North American Rabies Management Plan has been achieved. Phase 2, terrestrial rabies elimination, is the next logical step.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests that the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services initiate Phase 2, terrestrial rabies elimination, with a raccoon rabies elimination program in the Northeastern United States.