



---

**RESOLUTION NUMBER:** 18                      **APPROVED**

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

**SUBJECT MATTER:**                      **Increased Fiscal Year 2017 Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services Oral Rabies Vaccination Program**

---

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Rabies control programs in the United States that have integrated oral rabies vaccination (ORV) with traditional public and animal health measures have successfully eliminated the canine variant of rabies in the south Texas coyote population, halted the westward expansion of raccoon rabies at the Appalachian Mountains, and eliminated raccoon rabies on Long Island, New York. ORV resources have also been shifted to adjacent, infected areas as portions of vaccination zones in affected states have been discontinued following the inability to detect terrestrial rabid animals. The elimination of raccoon rabies in Canada (i.e., Ontario and Quebec) resulted in enhanced, binational control measures along the international border under the auspices of the North American Rabies Management Plan (2008). Successful programs in Texas strive towards rabies elimination in gray foxes, as well as increasing knowledge relative to rabies control methodology in skunks. The requested funding will allow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to:

- Continue logistical program support and critical wildlife rabies surveillance;
- Execute contingency actions in response to rabid animals in sensitive areas;
- Maintain existing operational programs to control rabies in target wildlife populations;
- Continue the investigation of novel and U.S.-licensed vaccines;
- Continue studies relating to rabies control in skunks; and
- Initiate the Phase 2 elimination of raccoon strain terrestrial rabies in the Northeastern United States.

The USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, ORV program has been demonstrated to be cost-effective, while continuing to reduce rabies exposure and transmission among wildlife, livestock, pets and people. The United States Animal Health Association agrees with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) - the best strategy to implement rabies control is at the animal (i.e., vector) source. ORV programs are designed to immunize target wildlife species by increasing the percentage of rabies-immune animals within vaccination zones. Creating a population of immune animals results in the reduction of rabies cases, prevention of viral spread, and eventual rabies elimination. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization declared that terrestrial rabies and foot and mouth disease should be the next targets for global disease eradication.

**RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress appropriate a minimum of \$30 million for the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program management and contingency actions at the state level in the Fiscal Year 2017 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services.