
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 39 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON ONE HEALTH

**SUBJECT MATTER: INCREASED FISCAL YEAR 2020 FUNDING FOR THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE,
WILDLIFE SERVICES NATIONAL RABIES
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS), National Rabies Management Program (NRMP) has demonstrated that strategic implementation of cooperative oral rabies vaccination (ORV) programs targeting wildlife are cost-effective, while continuing to reduce rabies exposure and transmission among wildlife, livestock, pets and people. The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) determined that the most effective strategy to control terrestrial rabies targets the sources of infection (i.e., wildlife vector populations) with large-scale control efforts. ORV programs are designed to immunize target wildlife species by increasing the percentage of rabies-immune animals within vaccination zones, resulting in the reduction of rabies cases, prevention of viral spread (Phase 1 of the NRMP), and eventual rabies elimination (Phase 2 of the NRMP).

In early 2016, WS assembled federal, state, academic, and international experts to develop a comprehensive strategy to implement Phase 2 of the NRMP, elimination of the raccoon rabies variant in the Eastern United States. WS also developed and initiated an Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Program with state cooperators throughout the Northeast, Atlantic, and adjacent Mid-West and Southern States to improve early identification of rabies cases and recognition of translocated rabid animals. This resulted in detection of individual cases of raccoon rabies west of the Virginia and Ohio immune barrier during 2017-2018, and within an area of the Ohio ORV barrier in 2018. WS and the affected states immediately launched contingency vaccination strategies to halt continued rabies spread to new areas.

Successful ORV programs in Texas continue with rabies elimination in gray foxes and maintenance of an immune barrier along the Mexican border to keep the United States free of coyote (canine) and gray fox rabies. The requested funding will allow USDA to:

- Fully implement and continue the enhanced rabies surveillance program.
- Implement contingency actions in response to rabid animals in sensitive areas.
- Continue Phase 1 of the NRMP, to maintain existing ORV programs to control rabies and prevent spread in wildlife populations.

- Continue the evaluation of novel and US-licensed vaccines and baits.
- Continue studies related to rabies control in skunks.
- Initiate Phase 2 of the NRMP, to eliminate the raccoon rabies variant in the U.S.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association requests the 119th Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$33 million for program management and contingency actions at the state level in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget line item for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program.