



United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

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To: David D. Schmitt, President, U.S.A.H.A.
United States Animal Health Association
4221 Mitchell Avenue
Saint Joseph, MO 64507

Thank you for your letter dated November 30, 2015 from the 119th USAHA meeting in Providence, RI stating approved Resolution 17, which requests USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services (WS) initiate raccoon rabies elimination efforts in the Northeast U.S. and Canada (Phase 2 goal of the U.S. and North American Rabies Management Strategic Plans), and Resolution 18, which supports additional funding to formulate and implement viable raccoon rabies elimination efforts.

USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services also recognizes the strategic importance the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has placed on controlling rabies at the animal source. Accordingly, strategic rabies planning in both the U.S. and internationally, with our border partners in Canada, is ongoing and structured around two fundamental goals, phase 1 goal to prevent further appreciable spread of raccoon rabies and phase 2 goal to use larger landscape level rabies management strategies toward elimination of raccoon rabies.

In FY 2015, WS committed \$26 million in federally appropriated funds toward enhanced rabies surveillance, control, elimination planning, and captive and field research in raccoon rabies in the eastern U.S. and canine and gray fox rabies in the southwestern U.S. (primarily Texas).

If additional resources were available in FY 2016, it could potentially allow for more aggressive strategies toward rabies elimination, as well as supporting enhanced rabies surveillance and monitoring to confirm successes.

We appreciate input by the USAHA and greatly value the organization's continued support of our "One Health" efforts to protect U.S. agriculture, natural resources, and human health and safety. We look forward to continued collaboration with the USAHA Committees. Thank you again for providing WS with meaningful resolutions.

William H. Clay
Deputy Administrator
Wildlife Services