

**THE NINTH MEETING OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE
MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 415
CITY HALL**

1:00 P.M.

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

1:00 p.m. The meeting convened.

ATTENDANCE

Members

J. Spencer, Chair, Dog Owners Association
Councillor Jim Herbert
G. Gratton, Animal Aide (Dep. 2:49 p.m.)
L. Jackson, All Breed Canine Rescue
C. Burns, Another Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation
K. Knott
Deb Harris

Officials

M. Knapp, Corporate Administrative &
Accessibility Clerk
M. Vriens, Manager, Roads and
Transportation (Dep. 2:36 p.m.)
D. Smukavich, By-law Enforcement Officer III
(Dep. 2:36 p.m.)

Absent

Councillor J. Rymal

Others

Larissa Nituch, Ministry of Natural Resources

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

PRESENTATIONS

Ministry of Natural Resources - Ontario Rabies Management - Appendix "A"

Larissa Nituch, Supervisor, Rabies Science Operations, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provided the members with a Power Point Presentation relating to Ontario Rabies Management.

The Chair thanked Ms. Nituch for her presentation.

MINUTES

Motion by L. Jackson - G. Gratton:

THAT: The minutes of the meeting held on October 17, 2019 be confirmed.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome - Dan Smukavich

The members welcomed Dan Smukavich, By-law Enforcement Officer III who came from the Town of Tillsonburg.

Group Updates

The Animal Welfare Groups had no further updates to report.

October 2019 Shelter Statistics – Appendix "B"

Ms. Jackson asked if wildlife animals at the shelter could be added to the statistics.

The Manager, Roads and Transportation stated that staff could add the wildlife animals to the statistics starting in 2020.

Application Process Review

CONFIRMED _____ CHAIRMAN

the 9th meeting of the Select Committee on Animal Welfare - 2

The members expressed concern that some animals were being returned after adoption and requested a review of the application process.

The Manager, Roads and Transportation stated that there are multiple criteria that a person must meet before adoption can occur. He stated that staff review each application thoroughly with the animal's welfare as the main concern.

The members had no further questions.

Art 4 Animals: Spays Stop Strays - Appendix "C"

Ms. Harris explained the new program called Spays Stop Strays in St. Thomas.

The members commended the organizers of the program that has been a huge help to residents and animal organizations in St. Thomas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trupanion Health Insurance

The Manager, Roads and Transportation stated that he was waiting for more information from the company and the information would be reviewed internally by staff.

Meet Your Match Program

The members agreed that this item could be removed from the agenda.

City Animal Services Van - Advertising

The members asked about additional advertising on the City Animal Services Van for the Select Committee on Animal Welfare.

The Manager, Roads and Transportation stated that the Facebook posts every Friday were working well for the Committee and staff felt that advertising was not required at the current time.

Patrolling by Staff

The members asked about potential charges given to residents when staff are out patrolling the parks.

The By-law Enforcement Officer III stated that it is very difficult to lay charges but staff do educate the public with copies of the by-law and provide warnings.

The Manager, Roads and Transportation stated that operational procedures were being reviewed internally and discussions were taking place with the St. Thomas Police Services.

Assessment of Dangerous Dogs

The Committee discussed assessment of potentially dangerous dogs at the shelter.

Ms. Jackson would provide an example of an assessment procedure to staff.

The Chair advised that Environmental Services staff could leave for the remainder of the meeting.

2:36 p.m. The meeting recessed.

2:40 p.m. The meeting reconvened with the same members in attendance.

Fundraising Project for New Animal Shelter

The members discussed the fundraising letters sent out to various organizations.

the 9th meeting of the Select Committee on Animal Welfare - 3

The members expressed its desire for City Council to assist the Fundraising Committee.

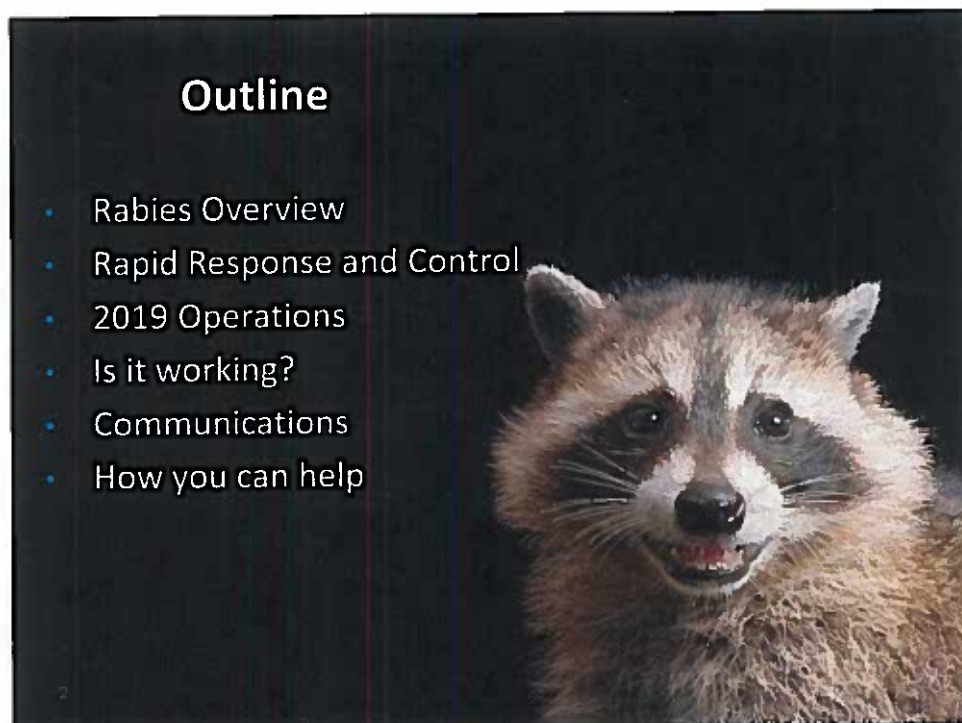
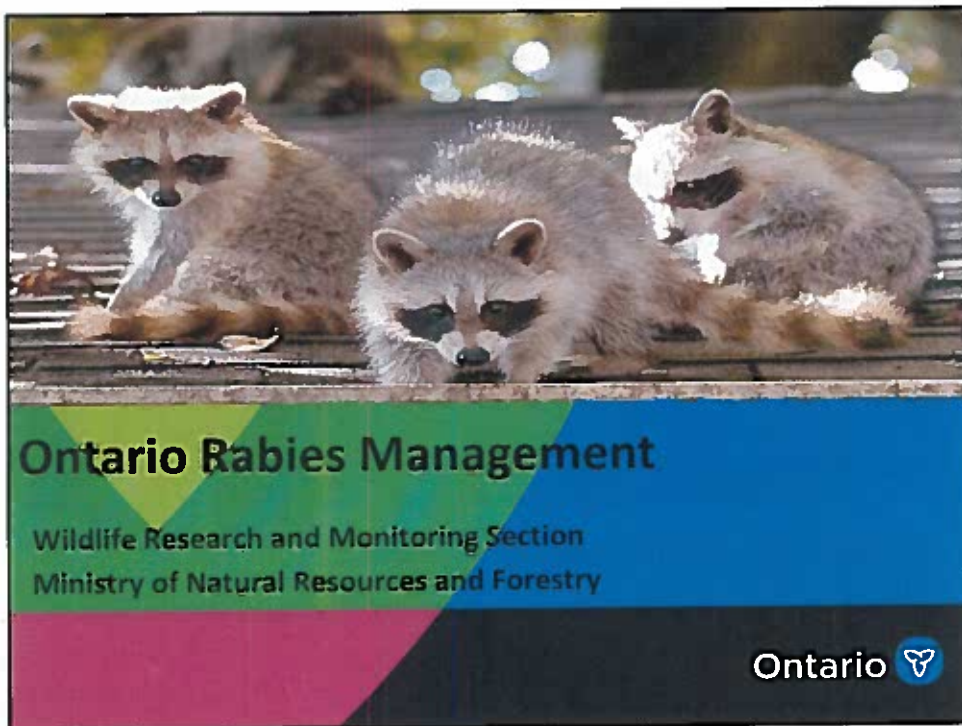
Councillor Herbert explained that the City was already contributing monies towards the proposed project.

NEXT MEETING

December 19, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in Committee Room #415

ADJOURNMENT

2:57 p.m. The meeting adjourned.



What is Rabies?

- Infectious viral disease of mammals
- Attacks the central nervous system
- Exposure – bite, scratch or contact with infectious substance
- **Infectious substances**
 - saliva, neural tissue
- **Non-infectious substances**
 - blood, urine, feces, skin or fur
- Fatal if left untreated, after symptoms occur
- Present > 150 countries; on all continents except Antarctica



Ontario 



Currently two strains of terrestrial rabies in Ontario

- Arctic fox strain
- Mid-Atlantic raccoon strain
- Also several bat strains

Any mammal can contract any strain of rabies

Ontario 

Rabies in Bats



- Bats are an important part of our ecosystem and help reduce the insect population
- Bat strains of rabies persist at low levels across the province
 - Fewer than 2% of all bats submitted for testing have rabies; in the overall population, this percentage would be much lower
- Any bat encountered should be considered rabid unless proven otherwise
 - Bats have small, needle-like teeth and claws, bites or scratches can easily go undetected
- There is currently no efficient way to vaccinate bats against rabies

Ontario 

Rabies in Bats



- Approximately 1-2 cases of a terrestrial mammal with bat strain rabies are detected in Ontario each year
- Typical cases occur in skunks, who are frequent scavengers of dead bats
 - Skunks, mink and other terrestrial mammals are typically “dead-end” hosts for bat rabies, and therefore additional rabies control actions are not required
- Public education is the best strategy for protecting people and pets from bat strain rabies

Ontario 

Arctic Fox Strain Rabies

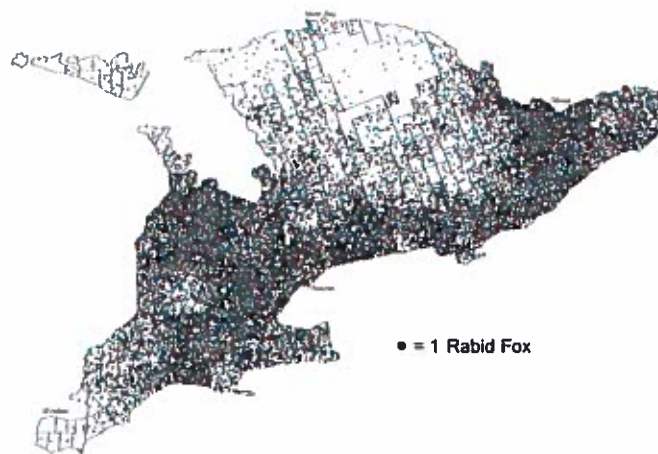


Ontario 

Arctic Fox Strain Cases

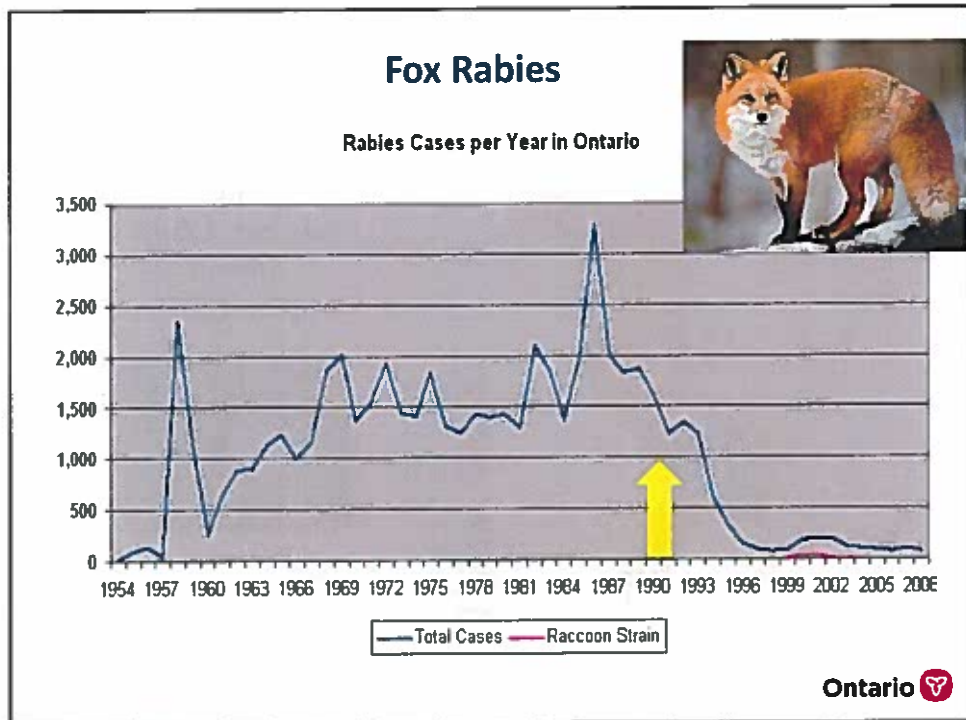


'Arctic' rabies virus
1958 - 1990

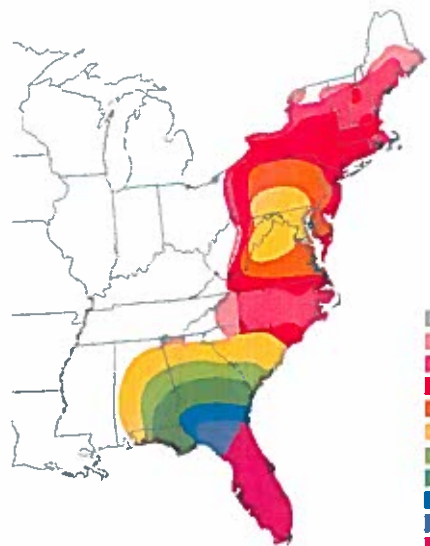


• = 1 Rabid Fox

Ontario 



Raccoon Strain Rabies



Mid-Atlantic
Raccoon Rabies
Spread
(1953-2007)



The Danger for Ontario

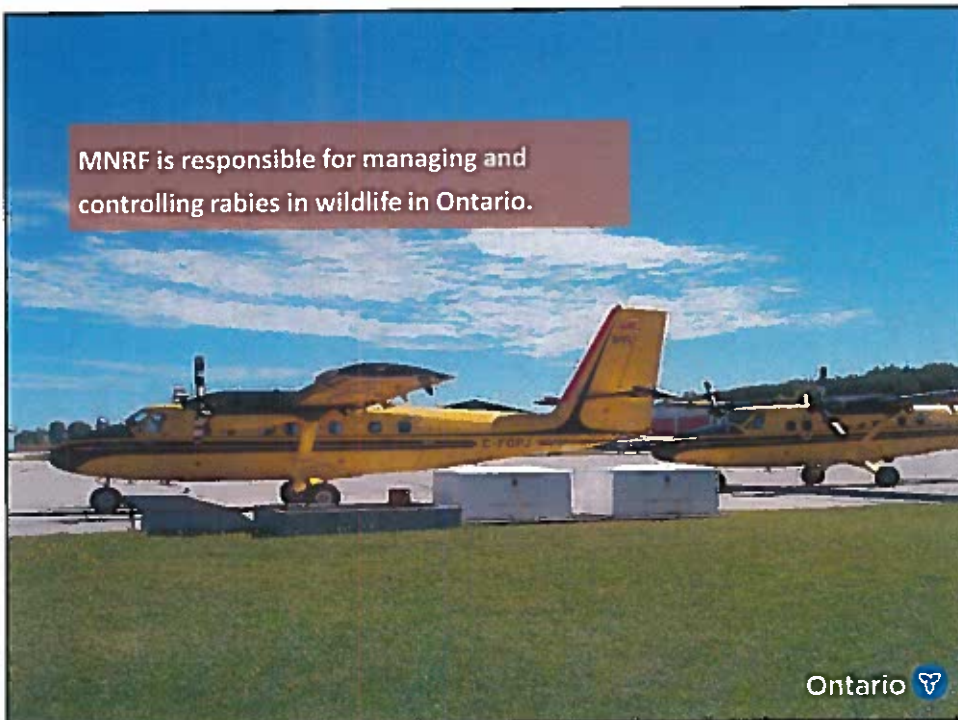
Raccoons in Ontario


- Raccoons are one of the most successful furbearers in N.A.
- High affinity for human habitat
- Some cities >100 raccoons/km²
- Ontario population ~ 1 million
- PEP is over \$2,000/person
- 2001 study estimated \$8-12M per year without control




Ontario 

MNRF is responsible for managing and controlling rabies in wildlife in Ontario.




Ontario 

Protecting Ontario



Every year, MNR distributes baits by air and hand

- in response to positive cases
- preventatively along the Ontario-NY state border in eastern Ontario and in the Niagara area
- Restrict the movement of RVS species

Ontario 


ONRAB[®] vaccine is an Ontario produced vaccine between **government, private and academic** partners




Ultra-lite bait

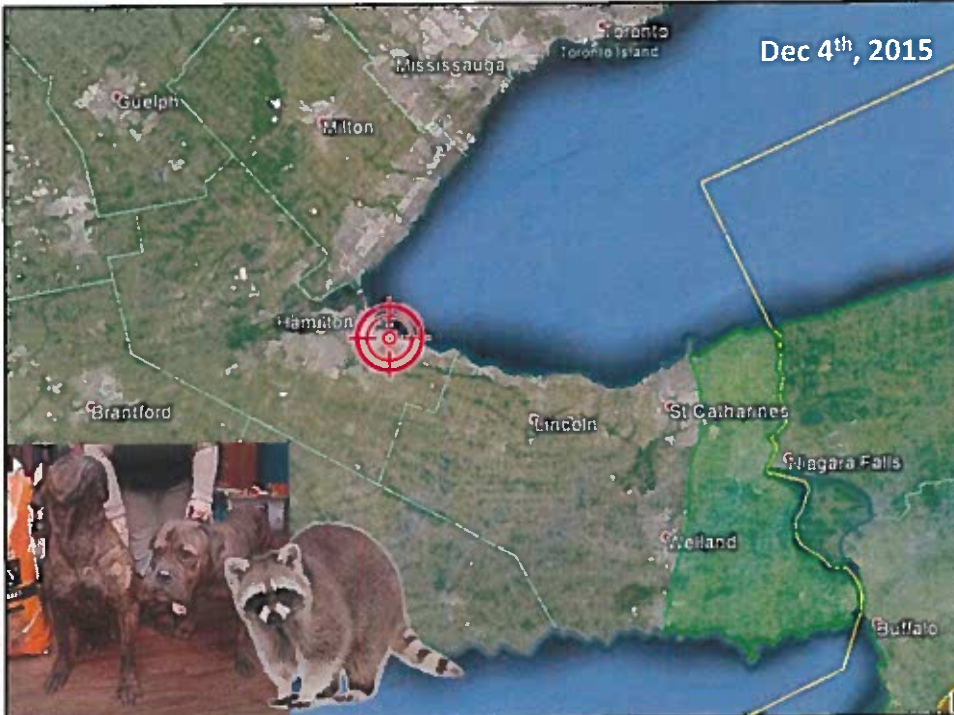
- Very good vaccination results for all 3 major vector species
- First field trials in 2006, licensed in Canada 2013
- Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, USA

Ontario 



Things were looking quiet on the terrestrial rabies front in Ontario...

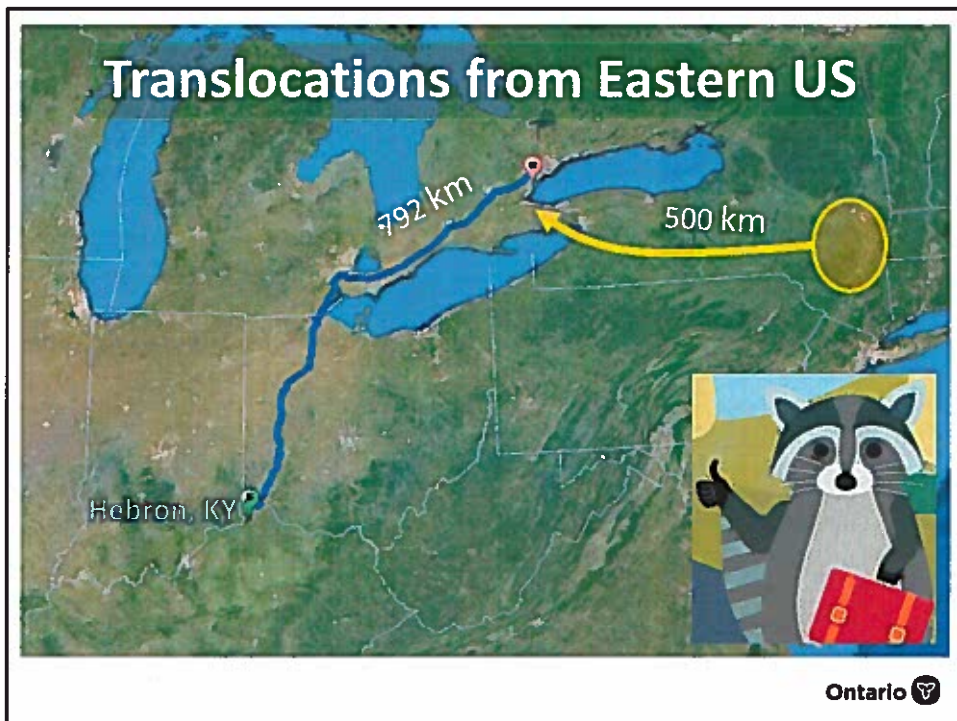
Ontario 



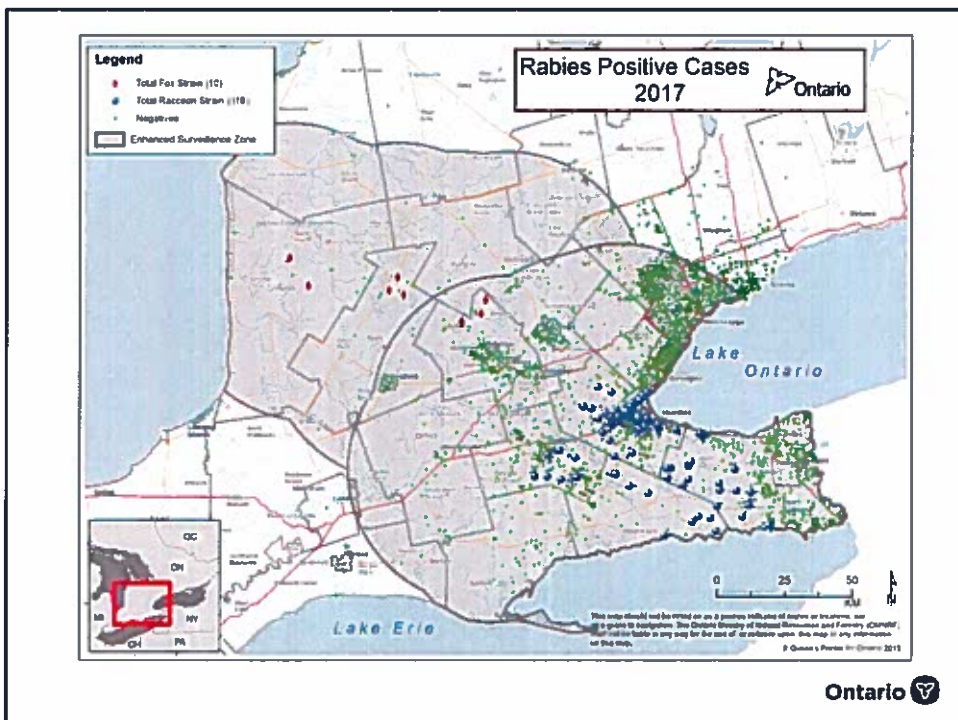
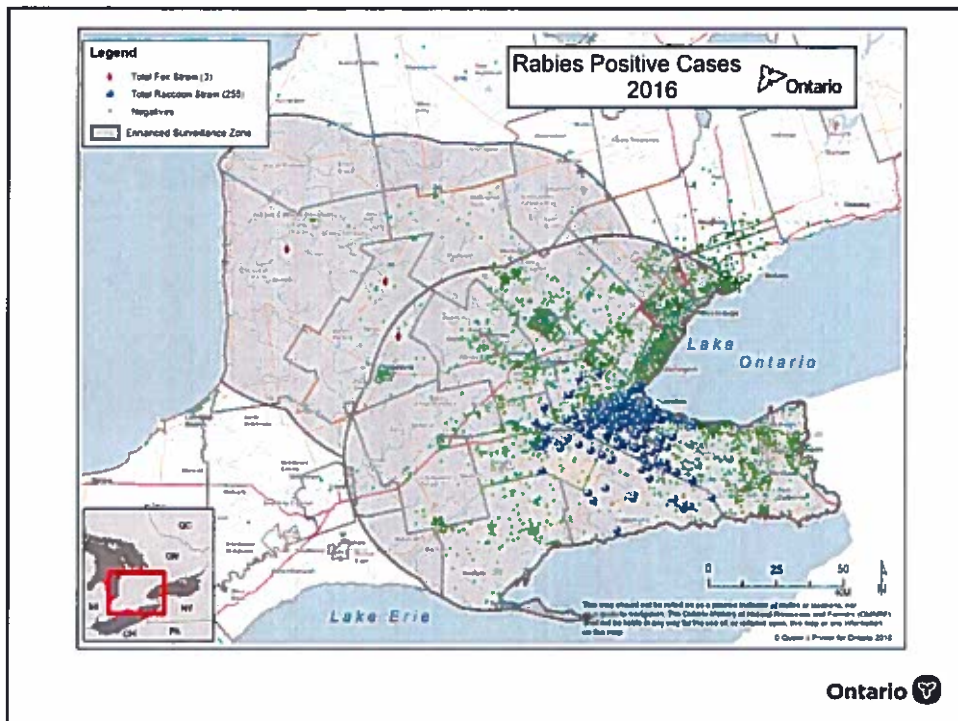
Dec 4th, 2015

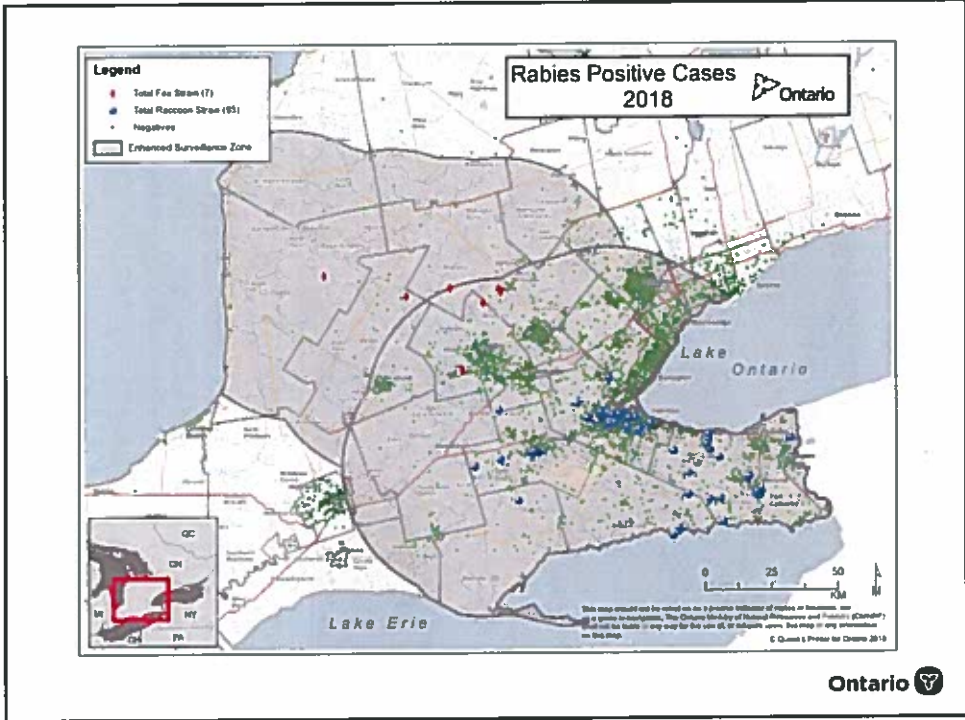
Locations on map: Toronto, Toronto Island, Mississauga, Milton, Guelph, Hamilton, Brantford, Lincoln, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland, Buffalo.


Inset image: A raccoon and two dogs.







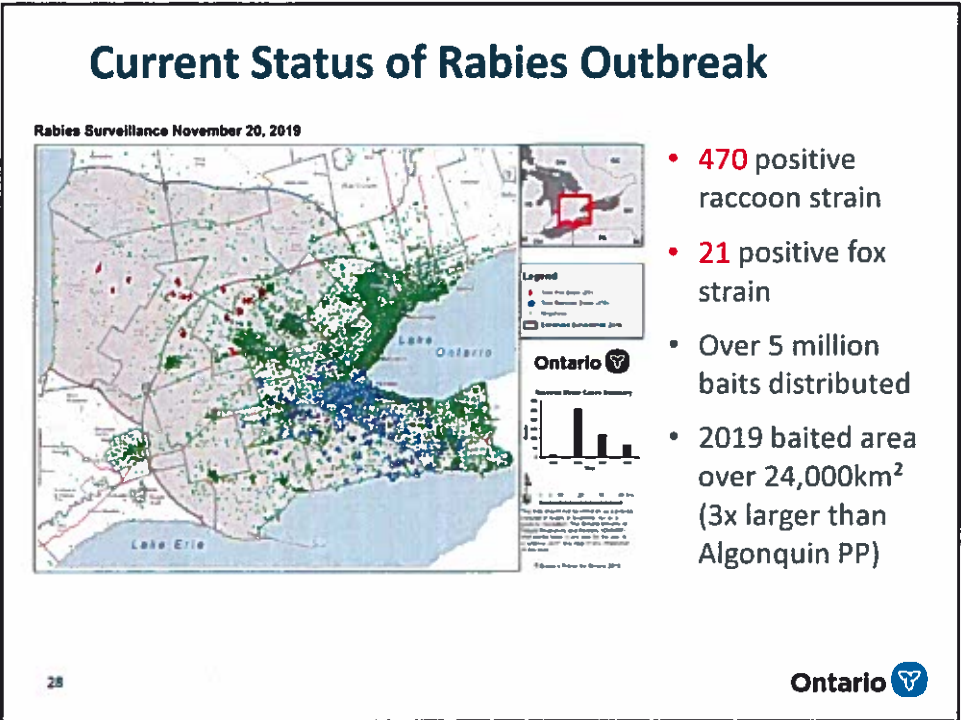
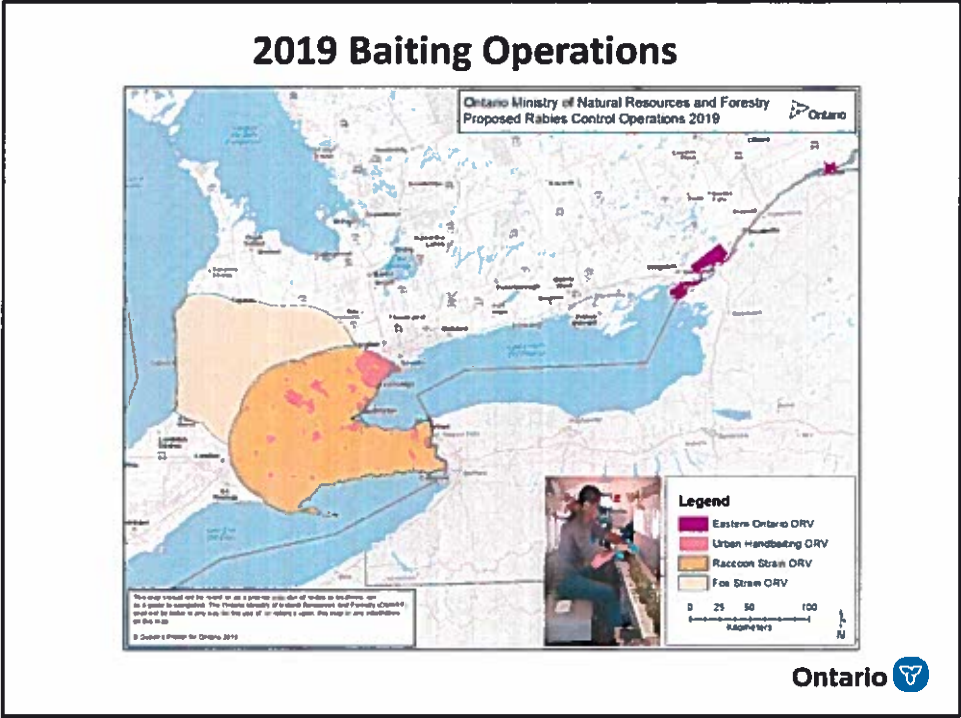




2019 Operations

- Rapid response baiting to fox and raccoon cases (Apr- Nov)
- Trap-Vaccinate-Release in targeted areas (July - Oct)
- Hand baiting and feeding stations (July - Sept)
- Raccoon and fox aerial baiting (Aug - Sept)
- Ongoing surveillance within 50 km of cases
- Ongoing outreach and communications

Ontario



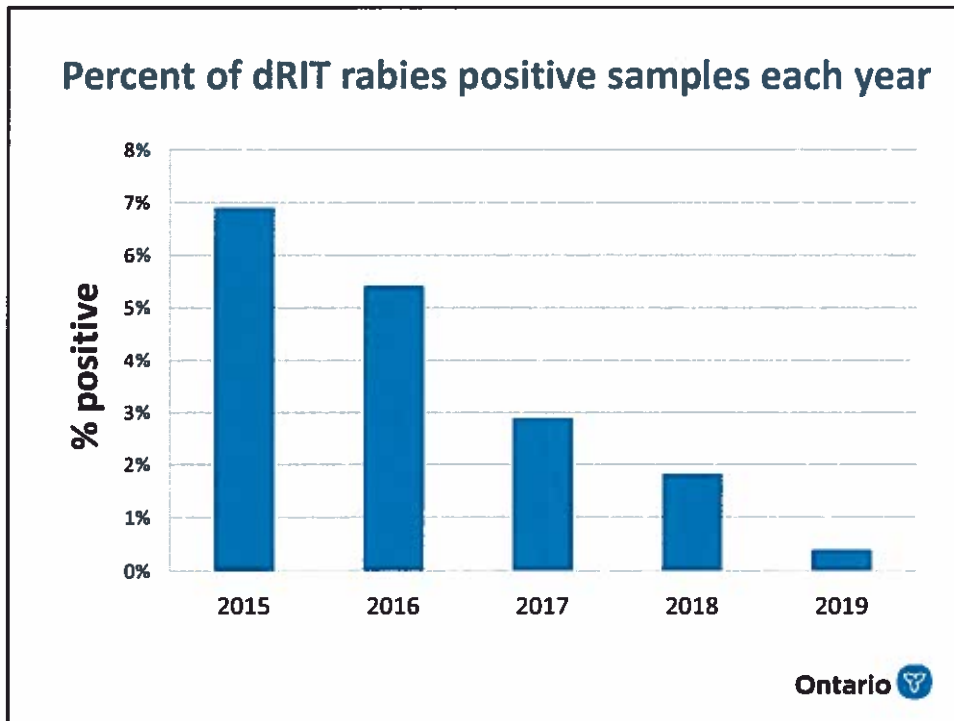


KNOWN RABIES CASES
(raccoon/fox strains) from 2016-2018

Year	2016	2017	2018
Cases	258	129	72

- Reduction in number of cases
- 50% decline each year since 2016
- Adaptive management
- Strong partnerships key to success

Ontario



Public Outreach

“I’ve come across an animal that I think might have rabies, but I’m not sure what to do.”

- You or a family member has been scratched/bitten**
Contact family doctor, public health unit or local emergency department for a risk assessment
- Pet/livestock scratched/bitten**
Contact local veterinarian for a risk assessment
- Wild animal seen**
Call MERIF at 1-866-574-6636
- Wild animal seen**
Contact local animal control/pest control if emergency call 911
- Birds (road only)**
Call Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-800-673-4781

#MERIFscience Ontario

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Trade shows
- Interest groups
- Media responses

PET OWNERS!
Know the facts about oral rabies vaccine bait

Ontario

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Exposure - Who To Call


If a human has been exposed, give first aid treatment, then report the incident to your local health unit, doctor or emergency department


If a domestic animal has been exposed call your veterinarian


If an animal is acting strange or sick, and neither a human nor pet/livestock have been exposed, contact your municipal animal control department or OSPCA or a licensed trapper


For non-emergencies and information about rabies in wildlife, call the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Rabies Information Line at 1-888-574-6656


“I’ve come across an animal that I think might have rabies, but I’m not sure what to do.”

 You or a family member has been scratched/bitten
Contact family doctor, public health unit or local emergency department for a risk assessment

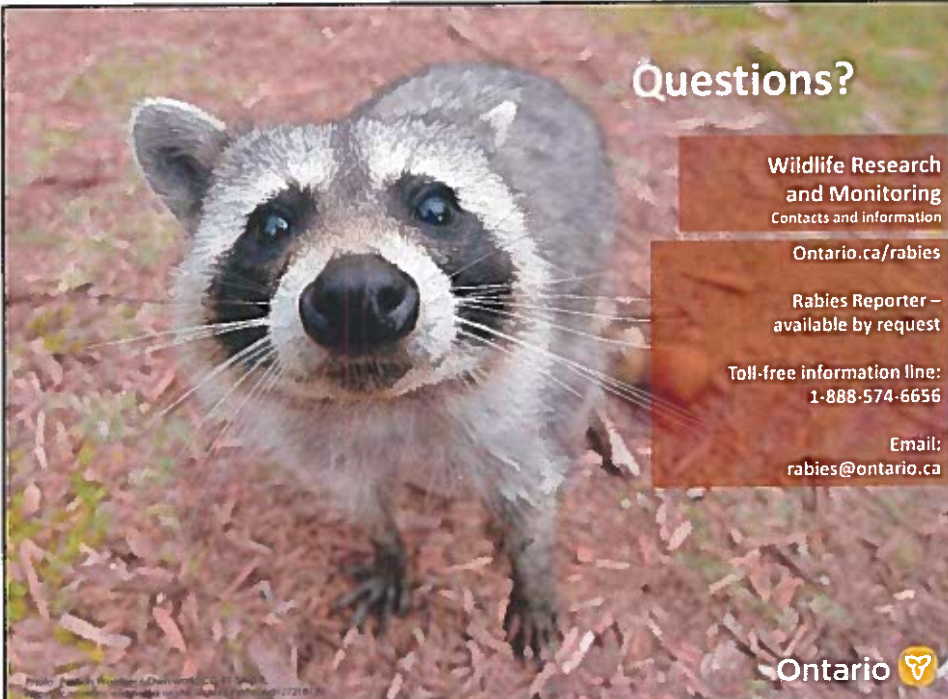
 Pet/livestock scratched/bitten
Contact local veterinarian for a risk assessment

 Wild animal (dead)
Call MNRF at 1-888-574-6656

 Wild animal (alive)
Contact local animal control/pest control; if emergency call 911

 Bat (dead only)
Call Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative at 1-866-673-4781

#MNRFscience Ontario



Questions?


Wildlife Research and Monitoring
Contacts and information

Ontario.ca/rabies

Rabies Reporter – available by request

Toll-free information line:
1-888-574-6656

Email:
rabies@ontario.ca

Ontario 

Appendix "B"

Monthly Total	Dogs Entered					Dogs Out				
	Stray/Lost	Drop-Off	Owner Surrender	Police	Owner	Adopted	ABGR	Euthanized	Other	
Oct 1 - 31										
St. Thomas	5	0	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	
Southwold	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Malahide	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Central Elgin	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	
Aylmer	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
TOTALS	11	0	3	0	4	4	4	0	0	
Total Dogs IN	14									
Total Dogs OUT	13									

Other Dogs	
Home other area	1
Total	1

Monthly Total	Cats Entered				Cats Out					
	Stray/lost	Drop-Off	Owner Surrender	Owner	Adopted	Animal Aide	Pets Friend	ABGR	Euthanized	Other
Oct 1-31										
St. Thomas	7	0	4	2	2	5	0	1	2	1
Total Cats IN	11									
Total Cats OUT	13									

Other Cats	
Big Fix Rescue	
Barn Cat Program	
Art 4 Animals	
Charity Cat	
Meow or never	1
Home to other Area	
Community cat	
Total	1

Year to Date	
Total Dogs IN	216
Total Dogs OUT	211

Total Cats IN	165
Total Cats OUT	162

Carried over from 2018	
Dogs	0
Cats	19

Art 4 Animals: Spays Stop Strays

Art 4 Animals has had a presence in St. Thomas and Elgin county since its inception in 2016. One of the organization's primary goals is preventing the overpopulation of cats through education and the Spays Stop Strays program. As a recognized rescue organization by the East Village Animal Hospital (EVAH - 1777 Dundas St., London), the organization has a prescribed number of appointments each month to assist low income individuals with the spay/neuter of their cat or dog. (There has been minimal uptake on this service for dogs.) Persons benefiting from Spays Stop Strays are expected to present income verification to qualify and pay a small portion of the cost.

The service was previously provided in London. However, as the city now has their own spay/neuter program for low income Londoners, Spays Stop Strays can concentrate on other geographical areas where similar services are lacking.

Information flyers have been provided to the Manager of Housing for the individual units in St. Thomas, and to Ontario Works. Information has been made available to CMHA, the St. Thomas Food Bank, and other charitable organizations.

The level of support is dictated by the availability of financial resources and volunteers.

This month, three St. Thomas residents were assisted with their cats. Three more are scheduled for the next booking.

Deb Harris

November 21, 2019