

**INFORMATION ABOUT
RABORAL V-RG®**

***Vaccinating Wildlife
Against Rabies***



Partnering to Protect®

What is RABORAL V-RG®?

RABORAL V-RG® is an oral live-virus vaccine developed to immunize raccoons and coyotes against rabies. The vaccine is a pink liquid sealed inside a plastic packet. The plastic packet of vaccine is placed inside of a fishmeal bait or covered in fishmeal coating to encourage consumption by raccoons and coyotes.

What does the RABORAL V-RG bait look like?



Coated sachet



Fishmeal polymer

RABORAL V-RG comes inside two different baits. One is a brown square block made of fishmeal, with the plastic packet inside the middle of the block. The other bait, called a coated sachet, is the plastic packet coated in a mixture of fishmeal, wax and oil.

How does the vaccine work?

Government wildlife officials and public health officials place **RABORAL V-RG** in wildlife habitats where raccoons and coyotes pick-up the fishmeal scent and eat the vaccine-filled baits.

After a raccoon or coyote eats the bait, **RABORAL V-RG**, a weakened poxvirus vaccine, immunized the animal through tissues in the mouth. Raccoons and coyotes are protected against rabies after eating the vaccine.



Is RABORAL V-RG® safe?

RABORAL V-RG® has been approved by the U.S. Government to be safe and effective for the vaccination of raccoons and coyotes against rabies. Because the vaccine does not contain the whole rabies virus, **RABORAL V-RG** cannot cause rabies. It has been tested for safety in more than 60 animal species.

Studies have also shown that the vaccine does not harm the environment. During the last 20 years, over 200 million doses of **RABORAL V-RG** have been distributed in the United States, Canada and in many other countries around the world.

However, **RABORAL V-RG** is a live-virus vaccine and should not be handled by anyone under 18 years of age, pregnant women, people on steroid medications, transplant patients, individuals undergoing chemotherapy or people with immune system problems, such as HIV disease.

Why is a government agency dropping RABORAL V-RG baits in this area?

State and local government officials and public health agencies are responsible for rabies surveillance, rabies control and protecting the public health. These agencies are carrying out an important rabies prevention program in your area. Part of this program involves vaccinating wildlife with **RABORAL V-RG**. The program is designed to help protect you against rabid animals that could attack you, your family, pets, horses or livestock.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services agency directs the National Rabies Management Program. Visit their website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/wildlifedamage/programs/nrmp/ct_national_rabies_management_program_overview.

How does the wildlife vaccination program work?

To ensure proper use and program monitoring, **RABORAL V-RG** is only distributed by government wildlife and public health agencies that manage rabies control programs.

Each year, government officials place over 5.5 million doses of **RABORAL V-RG®** into selected wildlife habitats across the country. The baits are dropped from planes or helicopters, because most often wildlife habitats are difficult to reach efficiently from the ground. Within populated areas, baits are usually distributed by hand.



Photos courtesy of USDA-WIS

The locations of “bait drops” are determined by the collective goals of the federal, state and local rabies control program. Government officials can use social media, broadcast public service announcements, and posters to let the public know when they are distributing vaccine in a specific area.

The **RABORAL V-RG** baits also have a toll-free number (**877-722-6725**) printed on their surface in case you need to contact your local rabies control office.

What if my pet or child finds a bait?

If you see a bait on the ground and you think it's not where it is supposed to be, please leave it alone and call your local public health office or toll-free: **877-RABORAL (877-722-6725)**.

If you suspect skin contact with the vaccine itself, a pink-colored liquid, immediately wash the area with soap and water and call your local public health office.



What is rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans. People can get rabies when they come in contact with the saliva of, or are bitten by, an infected animal. Any mammal can have rabies and possibly transmit it to people, pets and other animals.



Mandatory immunization programs for dogs and cats have greatly reduced rabies cases in domestic animals and pets in the U.S. Now, the animals most commonly infected with rabies tend to be wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes or bats.

Because rabies is a very serious disease, it is important to educate people about it. Rabies in humans can be prevented if a person receives appropriate medical care immediately after being bitten by, or exposed to, an animal that may have



rabies. Tens of thousands of people are successfully treated this way each year. Unfortunately, a few people die of rabies each year in the United States, usually because they do not recognize the risk of rabies when in contact with an infected wild animal, especially bats, and do not

seek medical attention immediately.

Please remember that not every raccoon, coyote, fox, skunk or bat has rabies – but if you see a sick or injured wild animal, be aware it could have rabies.

Call your local public health or animal control department, and do not touch the animal yourself.

What else can I do to protect my family and myself from rabies?

- Have your cats, dogs and horses vaccinated against rabies by your veterinarian or local health department. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.
- If an unknown pet or wild animal bites or scratches you or a family member, immediately wash the wound with soap and water and contact your doctor or emergency room for further instructions.
- If your pet is bitten or scratched by a wild or stray animal, call your veterinarian. Even if your pet or horse is vaccinated against rabies, it is important to report potential rabies exposures.
- If you are bitten by, or exposed to, any potentially infected animal while traveling abroad, it is very important to quickly seek medical attention.
- Report stray animals to local police or animal control officers.
- Do not touch bats, especially if the bat appears sick or injured. Call your local animal control office.
- Do not spread rabies by moving wild animals to new locations. Report nuisance raccoons, skunks or other nuisance wildlife to your state Department of Natural Resources or a licensed animal removal service. Capturing and moving wildlife is against the law in many states.
- Call your local health department to learn more about rabies and support rabies control efforts in your community.

For additional vaccine information, please visit this website:

www.raboral.com

***RABORAL V-RG®** is not approved for use in cats, dogs, horses or livestock.

Do not attempt to vaccinate your animals with a **RABORAL V-RG** bait.



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