



Figure 2. Location of rabies baiting in the Niagara area in relation to recent rabies cases in New York. Data provided by Wadsworth Center, New York State Dept. of Health

cases still persist close to the border in New York in both areas.

In the St. Lawrence area, approximately 20,000 baits will be distributed on the mainland east of Brockville beginning August 17. The location of the baiting area is determined each year by mapping the location of cases and determining which areas are the most susceptible in relation to those cases. This year's baiting area will be centered on the Ogdensburg-Prescott bridge which crosses the St. Lawrence River. Although Wolfe, Howe, and Simcoe Islands have normally been baited in the past, it was not deemed necessary this year since there have been no reported cases near the islands.

In the Niagara area, approximately 65,000 baits will be distributed in the Niagara area between the Welland Canal and the Niagara River. Baits will be distributed by helicopter and by hand beginning on August 25 and should be completed in early September.

ONRAB® baits will also be distributed along the border in New York by the United States Department of Agriculture and Cornell University. This is the second year of a 3-year field trial to test the efficacy of ONRAB® baits in New York. Approximately 455,000 baits will be distributed along the St. Lawrence and Niagara Rivers beginning in mid-August.

As with any best laid plans, ORV plans are subject to change if new rabies cases are detected between now and the first day of baiting!

## Rabies in Ontario - Who to call?

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Historically, in Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has been the agency responsible for rabies surveillance, investigation, specimen collection, and submission, quarantine, and diagnosis.

Effective April 1, 2014, CFIA announced that it would be reducing some of its activities related to rabies. The provinces are now responsible for rabies surveillance, investigation, specimen collection, submission, and quarantine.

The CFIA's role still includes performing rabies testing on human and animal samples submitted, licensing rabies vaccines, and providing rabies statistics, among other things. However, they will no longer collect samples for rabies testing or investigate/quarantine domestic animals suspected of having rabies. (Source: Canadian Food Inspection Agency website)

So, who should you call in the event of suspected rabies cases or possible contact with rabies (in Ontario)?

- **PERSON** at risk of potential rabies exposure?
  - Call your local public health unit – see link for a list of health units in Ontario. (<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>) or call 1-866-532-3161 to be directed to your local health unit.
- **DOMESTIC ANIMAL** with potential rabies exposure (domestic pet or livestock)?
  - Call the OMAF Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 877-424-1300.
- **WILDLIFE** with suspected exposure to rabies?
  - Call the MNR Rabies Hotline at 1-888-574-6656.
- **SICK OR INJURED BAT** that has had no contact with a human or animal?
  - Call the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) Ontario at 1-866-673-4781.

You can help reduce the spread of rabies through vaccinating your pets, informing the above mentioned organizations if you suspect an animal has rabies, and by keeping your distance from wildlife. Remember, do not trap and transport wild animals to a new location; it is against the law in Ontario and you could spread disease.