



BATH
MAINE *City of Ships*

OFFICE of the CITY MANAGER

Marc Meyers
City Manager
mmeyers@cityofbath.com

Memorandum

To: Chair Park, Vice Chair DeChant and Members of the City Council
CC: Juli Millett, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director
Date: July 1, 2022
From: Marc Meyers, City Manager
RE: **Oral rabies vaccination (ORV) program guidance**

On April 20, 2022, the City Council directed me to seek guidance from county, state, and federal governments in the coordination of the oral rabies vaccination (ORV) component of a wider rabies management campaign.

I reached out the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Center for Disease Control Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Division of Animal and Plant Health (State Veterinarian) and Sagadahoc County for guidance.

Enclosed are responses from USDA, IFW, CDC and Sagadahoc County. There was no support from any responses regarding coordination of the ORV component of a wider rabies management campaign.

From: [Dyer, Robin A - APHIS](#)
To: [Marc Meyers; Chipman, Richard B - APHIS](#)
Cc: [Haley, Betsy S - APHIS](#)
Subject: RE: [External Email]Oral rabies vaccination program
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 9:48:13 AM

Dear Mr. Meyers,

Thank you for your recent letter to Richard Chipman, Betsy Haley and I requesting further assistance coordinating a local oral rabies vaccination campaign. As you stated, last year USDA provided a draft plan at the Cities' request for a regional oral rabies vaccination program that would include Bath and the towns of Brunswick, Harpswell, Phippsburg, Topsham and West Bath. As previously discussed, this project would fall well outside our multistate wildlife rabies management zone. As such, there are no Federal resources that we can commit to a local project of this scope at this time.

Sincerely,
Robin Dyer

Robin Dyer
State Director/Certified Wildlife Biologist ®
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
79 Leighton Road, Suite 12
Augusta, ME 04330
t: 207.629.5181
f: 207.629.5182
Robin.A.Dyer@usda.gov

From: Marc Meyers <mmeyers@CityofBath.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Chipman, Richard B - APHIS <richard.b.chipman@usda.gov>
Cc: Dyer, Robin A - APHIS <robin.a.dyer@usda.gov>; Haley, Betsy S - APHIS <betsy.s.haley@usda.gov>
Subject: [External Email]Oral rabies vaccination program

[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;
Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.
Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Hi Rich, Robin and Betsy,

See attached. Let me know if you have any questions.

Marc Meyers
City Manager
City of Bath

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE
353 WATER STREET
41 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



JUDITH CAMUSO
COMMISSIONER

May 12, 2022

Marc Meyers, City Manager
City of Bath
55 Front St
Bath, ME 04530

Dear Mr. Meyers,

Thank you for reaching out to the Department regarding the coordination of a regional oral rabies vaccination (ORV) program in your area. Unfortunately, we do not feel that an ORV program is a viable option for the Bath area at this time.

As you know, during 2019 and 2020, our staff worked closely with the City of Bath as well as state and federal partners to develop a rabies response plan. Since that time, reported cases of rabies in wild animals in Bath and surrounding towns has been much lower. Although the USDA Wildlife Services provided an outline of the ORV Zone Designs for the Greater Bath area, there are several barriers for the program to succeed. The program has a high cost and would require a long-term commitment, and past research has shown that it is less effective to spot-treat local areas. In addition, there appears to be a lack of support from neighboring towns, and there is lack of federal funding to implement the program outside of the multistate wildlife rabies management zone (i.e., Houlton area). Instead, we recommend that the City of Bath continue to encourage local residents to implement the following strategies to reduce the risk of rabies.

Rabies Prevention Tips

- Vaccinate all indoor and outdoor pets and livestock
- Never feed, approach, or handle wildlife or stray animals
- Always feed pets indoors and keep them inside at night
- Secure compost and garbage in wildlife-proof bins
- Clean BBQ grills
- Regularly clean up fallen seed from bird feeders, which attracts rodents and other wildlife or remove bird feeder and grow native plants instead
- Secure poultry in a predator-proof enclosure (electric fencing works well)
- Eliminate wildlife denning opportunities under houses, porches, and sheds. Hardware cloth, boards, or metal flashing can be used to seal off areas.

- Prevent bats from entering a home by sealing off exterior cracks and holes (½ inch or larger).
- Do not move wildlife from one area to another, as this can spread diseases
- Report strange acting animals to authorities
- If bitten or scratched by a wild or stray animal, wash with soap and water and contact a healthcare provider right away
- If you wake up to a bat in the house, call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821

Learn more on Living with Wildlife: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/wildlife-human-issues/living-with-wildlife/index.html>

The State of Maine agencies involved in rabies management will continue to monitor rabies in the area and respond when necessary to protect public health and safety, as it does in all Maine Counties.

Thank you again for contacting our Department and feel free to reach out if you have further questions about wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Camuso". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Judith Camuso
Commissioner

Cc: Michele Walsh, State Veterinarian
Robin Dyer, USDA Wildlife Services

From: [Long, Robert](#)
To: [Marc Meyers](#)
Subject: RE: Oral rabies vaccination program
Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 8:40:16 AM

Hi Marc,
I hope you are rested up and ready for Heritage Days.

Maine CDC could not coordinate the regional or local effort you describe. Federal and state wildlife agencies would be the more appropriate points of contact to discuss an oral rabies vaccine initiative for animals.

Take care,
Robert

From: Marc Meyers <mmeyers@CityofBath.com>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 1:41 PM
To: Long, Robert <Robert.Long@maine.gov>
Subject: FW: Oral rabies vaccination program

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Robert,

I hope all is well! I wanted to see if you could help me receive a response regarding a regional oral rabies vaccination program for Bath and surrounding areas. I am hoping to provide feedback to City Council on July 6.

Thanks,
Marc

Marc Meyers
City Manager
City of Bath

From: Marc Meyers
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2022 9:57 AM
To: nirav.shah@maine.gov
Subject: FW: Oral rabies vaccination program

Hi Dr. Shah,

Good morning! I wanted to follow up to see if you have any response to these inquiries. Similar letters were also sent to IFW and the State Veterinarian.

Thanks,
Marc

Marc Meyers
City Manager
City of Bath

From: Marc Meyers
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2022 4:21 PM
To: nirav.shah@maine.gov
Subject: Oral rabies vaccination program

Hi Dr. Shah,

Good afternoon – see attached. Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Marc

Marc Meyers
City Manager
City of Bath, Maine
55 Front Street
Bath, ME 04530
(207) 443-8330
mmeyers@cityofbath.com



COUNTY OF SAGADAHOC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

Amber L. Jones, County Administrator

752 High Street, Bath Telephone: 443-8202 ajones@sagadahoccountyme.gov

June 24, 2022

Marc Meyers
Manager, City of Bath
55 Front Street
Bath, Maine 04530

Dear Marc,

As a resident of Bath, I remember well the local escalation of Rabies incidents, and personally saw foxes on Bedford Street where I live. As Administrator of Phippsburg at that time, we were also seeing a rise in rabid animal attacks. At Select Board's meetings we heard from trappers and wardens and the Board came to the conclusion that there wasn't an economical or clear solution to the problem that they were willing to invest in.

At the County level, there isn't an obvious department or committee to review and/or oversee participation in the Oral Rabies Vaccination program the USDA designed for Bath. I talked to the County's EMA Director Sarah Bennett, and she explained that the program doesn't fall under the directives for emergency management. We then discussed bringing the question to the next Board of Health meeting.

The Board of Health met and discussed the request. As the Board of Health does not have funding, they are limited in what they can do to support your efforts. The decision they came to, was that they could support educational awareness on Rabies, and would disseminate information in the form of flyers, or find avenues for posting information online.

Please feel free to reach out to me by phone or email if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones
County Administrator