



Government
of
Saskatchewan

Ministry of Agriculture
Rm. 202, 3085 Albert St.
Regina, Canada S4S 0B1

May 1, 2014

Re: **Saskatchewan Rabies Response Program**

Dear Stakeholder;

As of April 1, 2014, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will no longer collect, process or ship specimens for rabies testing, nor will it engage in any animal health response activities for animals believed to be rabid, or believed to have come in contact with a rabid animal.

To continue to protect the health and safety of the Saskatchewan human and domestic animal populations, a provincial rabies response program has been developed. Under this program, private veterinarians across the province will collect samples from suspect animals and submit these for rabies testing under direction from the program's Rabies Risk Assessment Veterinarian (RRAV). Test results will be reported back to the submitting veterinarian and to the RRAV, who will ensure that test results are further distributed to all relevant parties. The RRAV will also coordinate any response and follow-up activities necessary in the event of a positive rabies test result.

The Saskatchewan Provincial Rabies Response Program can be reached via the rabies hotline number at 1-844-7-RABIES (1-844-772-2437), or by email at RRAV@gov.sk.ca.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health will continue to deal with human exposure to potential rabies cases as per their normal procedures. If someone has been exposed to an animal that is suspected of carrying rabies, they should contact the local public health office or the **Saskatchewan HealthLine by dialing 811**. If this incident resulted in an animal bite, the affected area should be washed immediately with soap and warm water. The exposed person should see their family doctor or local emergency room department as soon as possible. The doctor will consult with a local public health official to see if preventative treatment is necessary.

If a wild animal is suspected of carrying rabies, these incidents should be reported to the local conservation officer who can be reached through **the Ministry of Environment's toll-free line at 1-800-667-7561**

Sincerely,

Betty Althouse, DVM
Chief Veterinary Officer
Livestock Branch, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture
Phone: 306-787-5547