



IMPORTANT NOTICE

APRIL 22 TO 30, 2024



RABIES is DEADLY.

Vaccination against raccoon rabies of wild animals on your territory

The Gouvernement du Québec will carry out vaccine bait distribution in the **Estrie** and **Montérégie** regions.

HAND VACCINE BAIT DISTRIBUTION

From April 22 to 30, 2024, teams from the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs will cover a territory of nearly 660 km² to distribute about 46 200 vaccine baits in the natural habitats of raccoons, skunks and foxes. The sites include, in particular, wooded areas, the banks of watercourses, the edges of farm fields, and areas around garbage cans.

List of targeted municipalities

In 2024, vaccination operations are set up to immunize raccoons, skunks and foxes against raccoon rabies, so as to limit the risk of raccoon rabies being reintroduced to Québec from the United States.

VACCINE BAIT

Vaccine bait resembles a greenish packet of ketchup or khaki green ravioli and has a sweet odour that attracts the target species. Their shells are designed to withstand the impact of air drops and weatherproof. Because of their camouflage colour, once spread, they blend in with the environment and are very difficult for humans to spot.





Rabies is a fatal disease both for human beings, wildlife and domestic animals.



Advice to residents during the vaccination operations

- The vaccine baits are intended for wild animals. Avoid handling them.
- The vaccine that the bait contains is safe both for human beings and pets and the environment. It cannot under any circumstances transmit rabies.
- While the vaccine baits are very safe, if you touch a broken vaccine bait:
 - use soap and water to wash your hands and any part of your body that came into contact with the bait;
 - call the number on the back of the bait or Info-Santé 811.

RABIES CAN BE PREVENTED BY ADOPTING SAFE HABITS.

- At all times, if you are bitten, scratched or have another type of contact with an animal's saliva, wash the wound, even if it seems minor, with soap and water for 10 to 15 minutes and promptly contact Info-Santé 811 to ensure proper follow-up.
- Residents who live in Estrie and Montérégie regions can contribute significantly to the fight against raccoon rabies. They are asked to report dead raccoons, skunks and foxes or animals that seem disoriented, injured, unusually aggressive or paralysed by contacting the 1-877-346-6763 or by visiting Quebec.ca/raccoonrabies.
- Never approach an unknown wild or domestic animal even if it seems inoffensive.
- Never touch an animal carcass with your bare hands.
- Consult your veterinarian to have your domestic pets vaccinated against rabies.
- Take steps to avoid attracting troublesome animals on your property, for example, by ensuring that outdoor garbage cans are out of reach.
- Avoid moving troublesome animals or those who seem to be orphans since you could spread diseases such as rabies to other territories.
- Consult a veterinarian if your pet is bitten by or comes into contact with a wild animal likely to transmit rabies.

Photos: Frédéric Lelièvre, Marianne Gagnier and Audrey Crevier for MELCCFP.

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RACCOON RABIES,

please call **1 877 346-6763** or visit **Quebec.ca/raccoonrabies**

*Environnement,
Lutte contre
les changements
climatiques,
Faune et Parcs*

Québec 

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