



NATIONAL PUBLIC
HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Rabies oral vaccine baits for wild animals General precautions Spring 2020

The Greek Minister of Agriculture and Food has embarked since mid May 2020 in a nationwide oral vaccination campaign of wild animals throughout Greece. The vaccine contains attenuated virus in the form of a capsule within attractive bait. Those baits will be dropped by airplanes or helicopters in Regional Units of Thessaloniki, Khalkidiki, Kilkis, Serres, Pella, Imathia, Pieria, Kozani, Grevena, Kastoria, Florina, Ioannina, Larisa, Trikala, Karditsa, Arta, Rodopi, Xanthi, Evros, Kavala, Drama, and areas of Aitolokarnania, Preveza and Evritania. Due to huge quantity of baits, wind gusts, and transfer by animals or birds, baits may be found in the outskirts of inhabited areas, and may come in contact with people, dogs, cats or other animals.



If you find vaccine-bait:

Avoid contact.

If you need to remove it:

- **Do not touch it with bare hands.** Use plastic gloves or bag and place it in a nearby spot, not frequented by and out of peoples' reach (e.g. in a bush), so that it cannot come in contact with other people.
- Alternatively, you may contact the local veterinary service or EODY for further instructions.

After direct contact with vaccine-bait:

- Only direct contact of the liquid content of the vaccine-bait with mucosa (mouth, eyes), open wounds, or broken skin constitutes risk of exposure.
- Wash with plenty of water and soap the area of skin having had contact with the vaccine-bait. Alternatively or complementarily you may locally apply antiseptic (iodine- or alcohol- based).
- Wash with plenty of water the mucosa (eyes, mouth) that came in contact with the vaccine-bait.
- If you had direct contact with the vaccine-bait, seek for medical assistance. If it is feasible, taking proper precautions (plastic gloves, plastic bag), place the particular vaccine-bait in a plastic bag and present it to the medical professionals.
- If your pet-animal catches with the mouth or chews the vaccine-bait, there is no particular risk for its health. Consulting a veterinarian is advised. You should wear impermeable (e.g. plastic) gloves if you try to remove the vaccine-bait from the animal's mouth. Afterwards you should dispose it in a place where no people are passing by or place it in a double plastic bag and dispose it in a municipal garbage bin.
- For more info, visit www.eody.gov.gr or call 210-5212000 or 210-5212054, 24/7.