

Policy: Handling Rabies Vectors

A concern about transmission of rabies to humans has arisen due to epizootics of rabies in certain regions of the United States. This issue was discussed by the Board of Directors of the NWRA at meetings of the board in the Fall of 1991 and the Spring of 1992. The following policy statement was adopted by the Board of Directors on March 18, 1992 and amended by the Board of Directors on November 17, 2002.

The Board of Directors of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association is concerned about health risks to wildlife rehabilitators and rescuers who handle high-risk rabies vectors in the midst of an epizootic. Since these species often do not exhibit obvious clinical signs and since non-bite rabies transmission is possible, every wildlife rehabilitator in these areas must decide on a safe and humane policy towards these species. State wildlife agencies and public health departments should be consulted and their regulations should be respected.