**[Template] Raccoon Relocation Letter**

Date

Re: Relocation of Rabies Vector Species (Raccoons)

An oral wildlife rabies vaccine bait distribution campaign is underway in x county. In order to protect areas that have not been affected, and maintain the gains accomplished by previous years’ baiting, the “**NO RELOCATION”** policy for raccoons has been put in place. This policy prohibits the relocation of raccoons into X County from another county.

This important epidemic control measure is outlined in Rabies Prevention and Control (Chapter 5).

“**Humanely destroying free-roaming wild mammals determined to be a contributing factor to the epidemic in residential areas. Translocation of trapped rabies vector species to other areas is absolutely forbidden because of the risk of spreading the epizootic to other areas**.” (5-C)

This especially applies to “**NO RELOCATION**” of vector species (raccoons) to public parks and recreation areas.

Wildlife rehabilitators may release in X County only those rehabilitated raccoons that were rescued in X County. Such releases must be made within a mile of the original point of rescue.

Further, this policy is strongly supported by Dr. Carina Blackmore, D.V.M., Ph.D., State Public Health Veterinarian.

Humane organizations and individual permittees who continue to trap raccoons MUST comply with the above guidelines. Failure to comply may result in a **Five Hundred Dollar ($500.00)** fine levied against the offending organization or individual.

Arrangements for the humane euthanasia of captured raccoons and disposition of the remains must be made with a private source and is the responsibility of each permittee. All raccoons must be considered potentially infected. Permission for euthanasia and disposition of remains must be approved by the Florida Department of Health X County , telephone ( ) .

Due to their high risk of contracting rabies, all individuals involved in trapping or handling raccoons should consider undergoing pre-exposure vaccination. The Florida Department of Health X County offers the pre-exposure series. Contact (name) for further details.

Questions about rabies should be directed to (name)

Sincerely,

X County Animal Services Director/Administrator Florida Department of Health X County