April 29, 2003

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
      Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
      Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Revised Rabies Control Guidelines

Please note the following revisions to the Rabies Control Guidelines:

Page 4, Section 4.1 "Was the person exposed to a bat, or bitten or licked by another possible rabid animal?"

- New information has been added to the last two paragraphs on this page:
  - Because skin integrity is always suspect, if a rabid animal licks intact skin, RPEP is indicated.
  - If a domestic animal is known to have had significant contact with a rabid animal (e.g. cat played with a bat later determined to be rabid) and an individual has an exposure to the animal in which rabies virus could have been transmitted, RPEP is indicated.

Page 5, Section 4.3 "Did the exposure occur in BC?"

- Updated epidemiology of rabies in Canada.

Page 6, Section 5.0 "Historical Information:"

- This historical information has not changed, just moved from section 4.3.

Page 7, Section 6.0 "Release of biologicals for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis:"

- Outlines routing of revised form: "Rabies Exposure Report and Rabies Biologicals Request Form" when rabies biologicals are released from a local depot or from the BCCDC Warehouse (Lynden)
- Includes after hours contact information for the BCCDC Warehouse (Lynden).

Administrative Circular: 2003:06
Page 9, Section 7.0 "Recording:"

- New section pertaining to documentation of the administration of rabies vaccine and HRIG, as well as to documentation when RPEP is refused.

Appendix A: updated list of CFIA Veterinary Offices

Appendix B: list of locally established rabies biologicals depot sites.

Appendix D: new form entitled "Record of rabies immune globulin administration." This form is to be used when a non-health unit site administers RPEP. BCCDC is required to forward the HRIG administration information to Canadian Blood Services.

The revised Rabies Control Guidelines are posted on the BCCDC website at: www.bccdc.org

Please remove and destroy the following from the Communicable Disease Control Manual:

Rabies
- Pages 1 to 10 Dated January 2002
- Appendix A Dated January 2002
- Appendix B, Pages 1 and 2 Dated January 2002
- Appendix C Dated January 2002
- Appendix D Dated January 2002

Please insert the following replacement pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual:

Rabies
- Table of Contents and pages 1 to 18 Dated April 2003
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 660-6061, fax (604) 660-0197, or e-mail karen.pielak@bccdc.ca.

Sincerely,

David Patrick
Director
Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control

DMP/kka

pc: Dr Perry Kendall Dr. Shaun Peck
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