

Author's response to reviews

Title: Potential Cost Savings with Terrestrial Rabies Control

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over

January 19, 2007

Dr. Lolu da-Silva
Assistant Editor, BMC-series Journals

Dear Dr. da-Silva:

As you requested in your email of January 17, we have made changes to our manuscript “Potential Cost Savings with Terrestrial Rabies Control” in response to the reviewer comments. The revised manuscript is attached. We have not made any changes to the tables and figures (other than one deletion as noted below), so we have not resubmitted those. The point-by-point response is as follows:

Reviewer, Dr. Henry Wilde:

- No revisions requested.

Reviewer, Dr. Jakob Zinsstag

- As recommended, we have added Dr. Zinsstag’s points about the cost-benefit of ORV in Europe due to the type of campaign conducted. This has been added to the revised manuscript on page 5 in the “Animal vaccination” section of the Background.
- We agree with Dr. Zinsstag’s major point that cost-benefit assessments must address issues of sufficient vaccination coverage. This pilot study was designed only to provide data on the costs associated with raccoon rabies, and does not have data to address the vaccination coverage issue. However, we agree that the issue needs to be addressed in future studies, and we have added it to the revised manuscript on page 20 as the final sentence of the paper (Conclusions, Future Research section).
- As recommended, most of the text on the original pages 7-8 towards the end of the Background section has been eliminated, about the details of the rabies reimbursement scheme, with just the broad outlines remaining.
- As recommended, figure 2 has been eliminated along with the text in the results section that refers to it, because the correlation coefficients from figure 2 are already included in the text. Figure 3 has now been renumbered to be figure 2.
- Dr. Zinsstag’s comment about page 18 and modelling has been added to the last paragraph of the Conclusions, Future Research section (on page 20 of the revised version).
- As recommended, the paper has been shortened, from 6,395 words excluding abstract, references, etc., to 4,927 words.

We appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you on this publication. We look forward to reviewing the proofs when you have them ready. Because our lead author will be out of the country for the next several weeks, please contact me if you need anything from us during that time period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Millicent Eidson".

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