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**News Conference to Announce New Oral Rabies  
Vaccine Program Targeting Wildlife  
*Countywide Distribution of Vaccine to Begin in March***

Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs will hold a new conference to announce the new Oral Rabies Vaccine Program is about to begin in Broward County:

Thursday, February 17, 9:30 a.m.  
Broward County Governmental Center Main Lobby  
115 South Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

Also joining the news conference are:

- Alan Davis, Director of Broward County's Animal Care and Regulation Division, who will outline the details of the countywide program;
- Howard Rosen, R.S., Environmental Administrator with the Broward County Health Department; and
- Bob Harbin, Director of Broward County's Parks and Recreation Division

There have been 30 cases of rabies in Broward County since July 2000, with the most recent case confirmed February 11 in Weston.

The five-year effort, starting this year, will vaccinate raccoons and other wild animals such as foxes, against rabies through an oral vaccine placed inside pieces of bait. The bait will then be distributed throughout Broward County.

The baiting will take place over a period of several weeks each year. The ultimate goal is to reduce the incidence of rabies among raccoons and reduce the threat of rabies to pets, humans, and other wildlife. The primary rabies threat in Broward County comes from raccoons.

Beginning in March, the bait will be distributed throughout Broward County from the ocean to the conservation area.

As part of the County's overall rabies prevention, the Broward County Animal Care and Regulation Division is also working to increase the number cats and dogs vaccinated against rabies. The Division will offer a series of low-cost rabies vaccination and license tag clinics for low-income pet owners.

The news media can play a vital role in helping to educate the community about the Oral Rabies Vaccine Program and the importance of vaccinating dogs and cats. It is

anticipated that the community will have many questions about how this new program will work.

All media are encouraged to attend this new conference.

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