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Bait flavor preference and immunogenicity of ONRAB® baits in domestic dogs on the Navajo Nation, Arizona

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Abstract: Rabies is responsible for an estimated 59,000 human deaths worldwide and domestic dogs are the primary reservoir and vector of the disease. Among some nations widespread vaccination has led to elimination of rabies in domestic dogs, yet dogs are still susceptible to rabies infection from interactions with wildlife reservoirs. On Tribal lands in the United States, less than 20% of domestic dogs are vaccinated for rabies and parenteral vaccination is often unfeasible. Oral rabies vaccination may provide a solution but a suitable bait flavor and vaccine must be identified. We evaluated five bait flavors (bacon, cheese, egg, fish and sweet) in pairwise flavor preference trials using placebo Ultralite baits in 26 domestic dogs on the Navajo Nation, Arizona. Each bait flavor was offered a total of 104 times. In all paired comparisons bacon was more frequently preferred to the alternative. The sweet flavor (the flavor used operationally for ORV distribution in Canada) was least preferred. Forty domestic dogs

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