



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
VETERINARY AND FOOD BOARD

Results of the implementation of the Rabies co-financed eradication programme in 2017

ESTONIA

Standing Committee PAFF
13 June 2018
Brussels

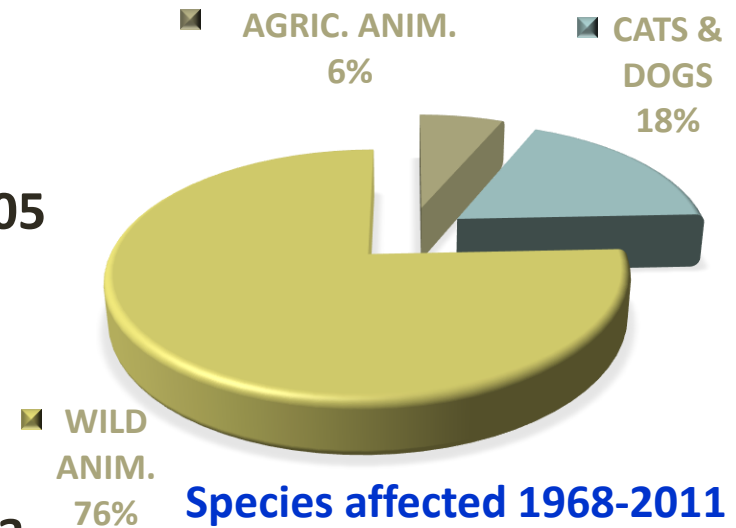


Presentation prepared by Enel Niin

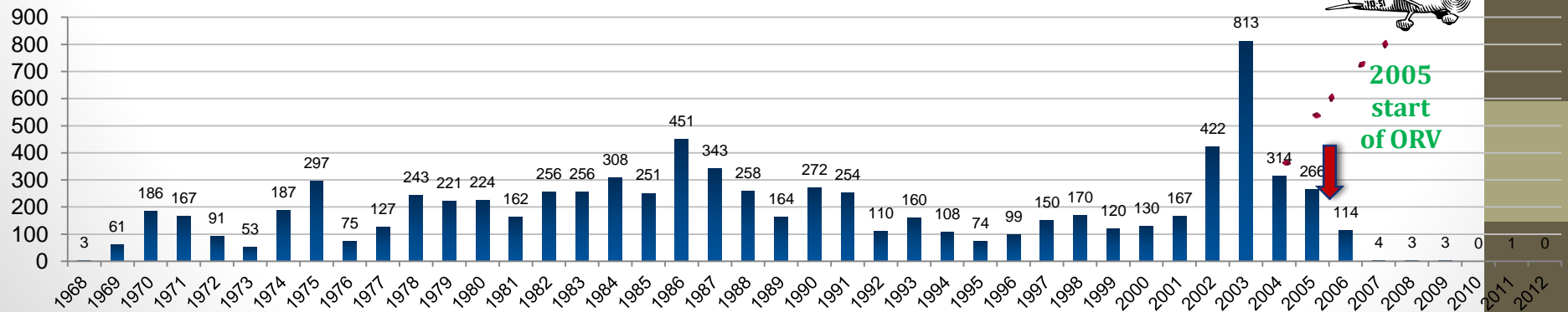
Photo: Aivar Alt

Short-history of rabies in Estonia

- Sylvatic rabies spread by foxes and raccoon dogs since 1968
- Vaccination of companion animals since 1953 (ongoing)
- ORV of wildlife started in autumn 2005 in North-Estonia
- ORV in total territory 2006-2010
- ORV in buffer area with Latvia and Russia 2011-2014, since 2015 with Russia



Number of positive cases (domestic and wildlife) in Estonia (1968-2015)



Rabies cases since 2008

- Last case excluding bordering areas

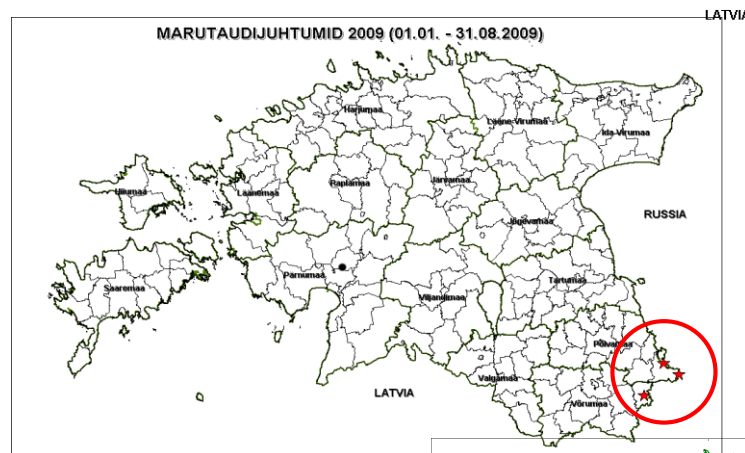
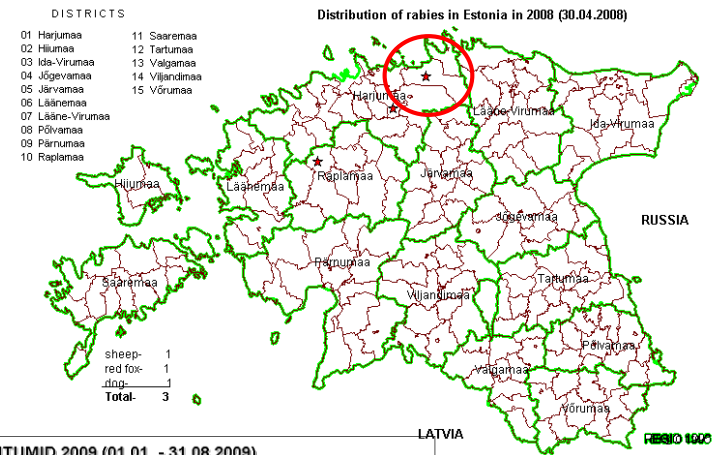
- March 2008- dog in Harju county

- Since then 4 cases diagnosed 1-5 km from border with Pskov Region of RF:

- Summer 2009 -3 foxes

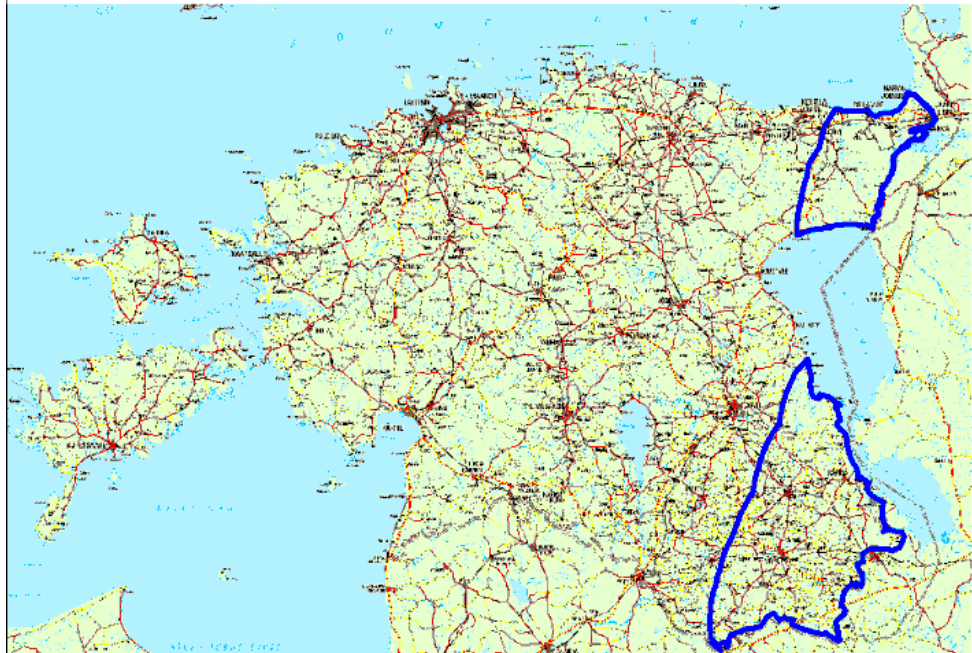
- January 2011- 1 raccoon dog

- On 3 of April 2013 self-declaration on the recovery of rabies free status, freedom retained nowadays



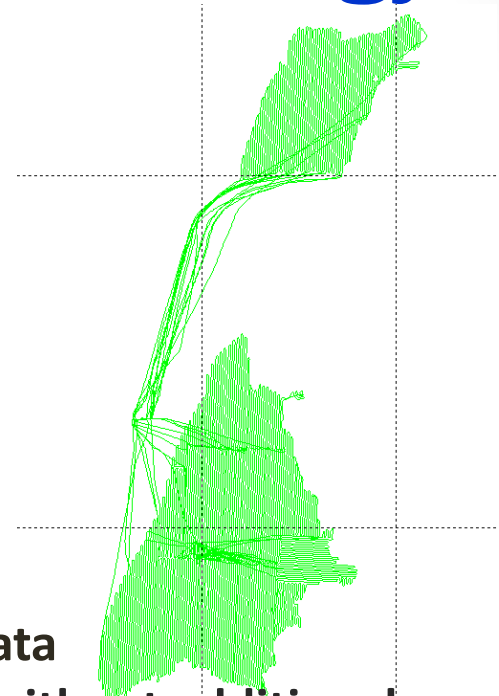
ORV in 2017, vaccination area

- Immune belt retained between Estonia and Russian Federation to prevent reintroduction of rabies since 2015
- Depth of immune –belt:
 - 30 km in north –east in coast of river Narva bordering Leningrad Region
 - 50 km in south-east bordering by land with Pskov Region
- Area suitable for bait-dropping 6 100 km²
 - Areas excluded from baiting:
 - urban areas, buildings
 - water bodies, wet fields
 - active coal mines
 - animal pastures in use



ORV in 2017, vaccination strategy

- **2 seasonal campaigns per year:**
 - Spring - from 15th to 20th May
 - Autumn- 19th to 25th of September
- **Baiting density: 20 baits/km²**
- **Rabigen SAG2 baits**
 - 244 000 baits distributed in total (50%/50%)
- **Distribution by Cessna 172, GPS recording of flight data**
- **Bait- dropping carried out by trained staff by hand without additional manual distribution**
- **Dropping lines distance- 550-600m**
- **Altitude form ground – 100- 150 m**
- **Flight speed – 160 - 180 km/h**
- **Continuous checks on maintenance of the cold-chain**
- **Titration in EU RL ANSES of all vaccine batches before bait-drop**



Surveillance in 2017

Indicator animals tested for virus: 866, 329 foxes/537 raccoon dogs

Suspected animals tested for virus: 228, wildlife- 204, domestic- 24

*Surveillance tests performed in
2017*

*Suspected cases/indicator animals
228/866*



All tests revealed to negative result, no rabies case detected.

Results of marker detection in 2017

- ~81% of tested animals found positive,
 - ~ 84 % of foxes /~ 78 % of racoon dogs

*Biomarker test, ORV monitoring
of 2017 programme*

Positives to TC/ number of tests
201/249



Results of seroconversion in 2017

- ~67% of tested animals found positive,
 - ~ 68 % of foxes /~ 66 % of racoon dogs

*Serological tests, ORV monitoring
of 2017 programme*

Positives to AB/number of tests



Problems identified

- **No major problems faced while planning and implementing the programme**
- **Two seasonal campaigns as planned**
- **Number of surveillance samples adequate**
- **Number of monitoring samples collected 4 animals/100 km²**
- **Results according to expectations**

- **Drawbacks faced since late autumn, when Virbac informed about decision to discontinue the manufacture of Rabigen SAG2**

- **Nevertheless, no campaign missed in 2018, spring ORV conducted 14.-19.05.2018**
- **No change in distribution pattern and baiting density**



Thank you for attention!