

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL
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Minsk, Belarus,
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VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION

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NEW VIEW ON PROBLEM OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL IMMUNIZATION AGAINST RABIES IN RESERVES AND NATIONAL PARKS IN BELARUS. L.S. Tsvirko¹, M.M Usenya², L.A. Tarasevich³.

¹Mozyr State Pedagogical University, Mozyr, Belarus. ²S.N. Vyshellessky Research Institute for Experimental Veterinary Medicine, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Belarus. ³Republican Center for Epidemiology & Microbiology, Minsk, Belarus

National parks and reserves in Belarus have absolutely forbidden zones in their territories where all human activities are prohibited except scientific research and conservation. A high number of wild animals in these territories induce favorable conditions for circulation of agents of zoonotic infections including rabies virus. This increases the risk of infection for the service staff and tourists visiting reserves and national parks. Taking into consideration the serious epizootic situation with rabies in the country, efficient measures of rabies prophylaxis may be as follows: 1. Pre-exposure immunization in risk groups (foresters, huntsmen, etc.). 2. Increased sanitary and epidemiological work among local population and tourists (observance of 10 "golden" rules of rabies prophylaxis recommended by WHO). 3. Compulsory immunization of all domestic animals (dogs, cats) in recreational zones and zones adjacent to reserves and national parks. 4. Dogs immunized against rabies should guard the herds of domestic animals. 5. In case of biting of domestic animals post-exposure treatment should include a new type of anti-rabies vaccine (in combination with riphampycin) developed in S.N. Vyshellessky Research Institute for Experimental Veterinary Medicine, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Minsk, Belarus.