Reviewer's report

Title: Emergency vaccination of rabies under limited resources - combating or containing?

Version: 2 Date: 7 December 2004

Reviewer: Reto Zanoni

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

No major compulsory revisions: Interesting paper on an important and controversial issue on the management of a rabies emergency vaccination. The model parameters used for simulation, like spatial distribution and density of foxes, mortality, dispersal, contact rates for transmission and immunization level after bait distribution are well substantiated by published field data and nicely reproduced by the simulations, e.g. Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The results and conclusions are very clear and directly applicable in practice.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1) The number of figures is at the upper limit for readers who stick on the conventional paper. A division in "core" and "supplementary" data should be considered.
2) Figure 5 is not suited for printer output.
3) Abstract, Background: missing comma after "eradicated globally"?
4) Abstract, Methods: "...regionally bait distribution(s) orients to..."
5) Abstract, Results: last sentence of first paragraph should clearly distinguish between areas and vaccination strategies.
6) Background, 4th paragraph, 2nd sentence: missing "?"
7) Methods, Model background, 1st sentence: "We evaluateD"
8) Methods, Model background, 2nd page, 1st sentence: "...geometric simplification...must BE covered..."
9) Methods, Spatial design, Circle strategy: "The vaccinated area is a solid square" is unexpected and might deserve some explanation.
10) Methods, model robustness: "over-baiting"
11) Results, Experiment 1: "above 1%" or "about 1%"?
12) Discussion, 1st paragraph: "...slight(ly) changes in assumed parameters."
13) Discussion, 7th paragraph: "...to public health IS prolonged."
14) Figure Legends, Figure 6: "...runs with rabies (insight) INSIDE the..."

- Discretionary Revisions

None

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests