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### **Rabies Immune Globulin (Human)**

The regional laboratories of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services now have available a limited supply of rabies immune globulin (human). This new rabies serum of human origin offers a significant improvement in the post exposure treatment of rabies. The undesirable side effects and possible anaphylactic shock attendant in approximately 30% of those cases treated with anti-rabies serum of equine origin are eliminated by the use of the human globulin.

Inventories of this globulin are limited nationwide. The regional laboratories of the state at the current time are the only places where the rabies immune globulin (human) can be obtained in Alaska. The supply that we now have is reserved for emergency uses. Each request for vaccine will be evaluated on an individual basis. Those cases with the most severe exposure and highest likelihood of rabies will receive first priority. In addition, those in the younger age groups will also receive a higher priority. A request for rabies immune globulin (human) can be made by contacting the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Regional Laboratories. They are: The Southeastern Regional Laboratory at 586-3586, The Northern Regional Laboratory at 452-1587, The Southcentral Regional Laboratory at 274-1602 or the Section of Communicable Disease Control in Anchorage at 272-7534.

Except under emergency conditions, the horse serum vaccine manufactured by Lederle should still be used. However, in cases where equine serum is used, a careful history should be taken and a test for hypersensitivity should be performed.

It should also be noted that rabies immune globulin (human) is not a substitute for the rabies vaccine series which must also be used for post-exposure treatment of rabies.

The Department of Health and Social Services will maintain a limited inventory of this rabies immune globulin (human) at all times and provide it upon request in those situations where it is indicated.

### **Anthrax from Horse Saddle Pads**

An animal hair saddle pad manufactured by the Perforated Pad Company, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, has caused animal deaths in Washington State from anthrax contamination. The pad is labeled "Alaskan Hair Saddle Pad." Washington State has reported infection so the product may have reached Alaskan horse owners.

Pads may bear a three-by-five inch blue label including name of manufacturer and style numbers 238, 238R, 500, 500R, 832, and 832R. Saddle pads should be placed in double plastic bags and the State Health Department notified.