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E. De la Garza

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news release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kerry Abelson
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MEDIA ALERT

WHAT: PUBLIC INVITATION to attend an informational meeting on the status of the South Texas rabies epidemic and the on-going federal, state and local efforts to combat its risks and potential spread.

Congressman de la Garza personally prevailed upon the U.S. Department of Agriculture to allocate \$1.3 million in emergency funds for an aggressive rabies eradication program in South Texas.

The program calls for aerial drops of coyote bait laced with an oral rabies vaccine to prevent further spread of the disease among wildlife. The vaccine will not be harmful to humans. Rep. de la Garza also helped arrange for the prompt issuance of an experimental use permit for the vaccine, as it is not yet approved for general use.

The meeting will explain details of the oral vaccine program as well as the on-going efforts to vaccinate domestic animals and control the wildlife host population.

WHO: Meeting Sponsors:
Congressman E (Kika) de la Garza (TX-15)
Hidalgo County Judge J. Edgar Ruiz

Also attending will be officials from:
USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Animal
Damage Control Unit
Texas Department of Health
Texas A&M, Kingsville

DATE: Saturday, January 28, 1995

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Commissioner's Court
Administration Building
100 East Cano (First Floor)
Edinburg, Texas