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6 April 1994

Mr. Boyd Gibbons

Director

California Department of Fish & Game 1419 9th Street-

1419 9th Street-Sacramento, California 95814

Re: IMRAB RABIES VACCINE FOR FERRETS

Dear Mr. Gibbons:

Rhone Merieux is the manufacturer of IMRAB[®], a killed rables vaccine which has been approved by the USDA for use in six species of animals, including ferrets. It has come to our attention that your Department has been publishing false and misleading information about IMRAB[®]; both within California and perhaps in other states. We have reviewed the attached March 25, 1994 "Ferret Fact Sheet," and we believe that the comments made about our vaccine are false and misleading to the intended

IMRAB[®] rables vaccine, killed virus, has been tested for safety, purity and effectiveness in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 9 (9CFR), part 113.209 as issued and regulated by the APHIS of the USDA.

As a result of this testing in accordance with 9CFR 1 13.209 the USDA has approved IMRAB[®] as a safe, pure and <u>affective rables vaccine for use in six species of animals.</u>

The criterion for demonstrating protection in ferrets (9CFR 113:209 63V) was the same as used to demonstrate the vaccine's effectiveness in dogs, cats and other species. In fact, the rables protection afforded ferrets (94.4%) vaccinated with IMRAB® exceeded the minimum protection level required (86.7%) for USDA license approval for dogs, cats, stc.

It appears your source of information regarding IMRAB® was not accurate and we ask that you cease and desist any further publications or commentary which do not accurately reflect the proven efficacy or safety of our IMRAB® product. We also request that you issue retractions of your statements to anyone to whom they were published or mentioned and that you submit copies of your retractions to my

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As a company, RMI is working very hard to develop, manufacture and distribute quality; proven vaccines for use by the veterinary community. We are most seriously concerned when someone tries to destroy the integrity of our products without just cause.

Please feel free to contact me if you any questions or wish to discuss the matter.

Very truly yours,

Donald G. Hildebrand President

DGH:sb

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