

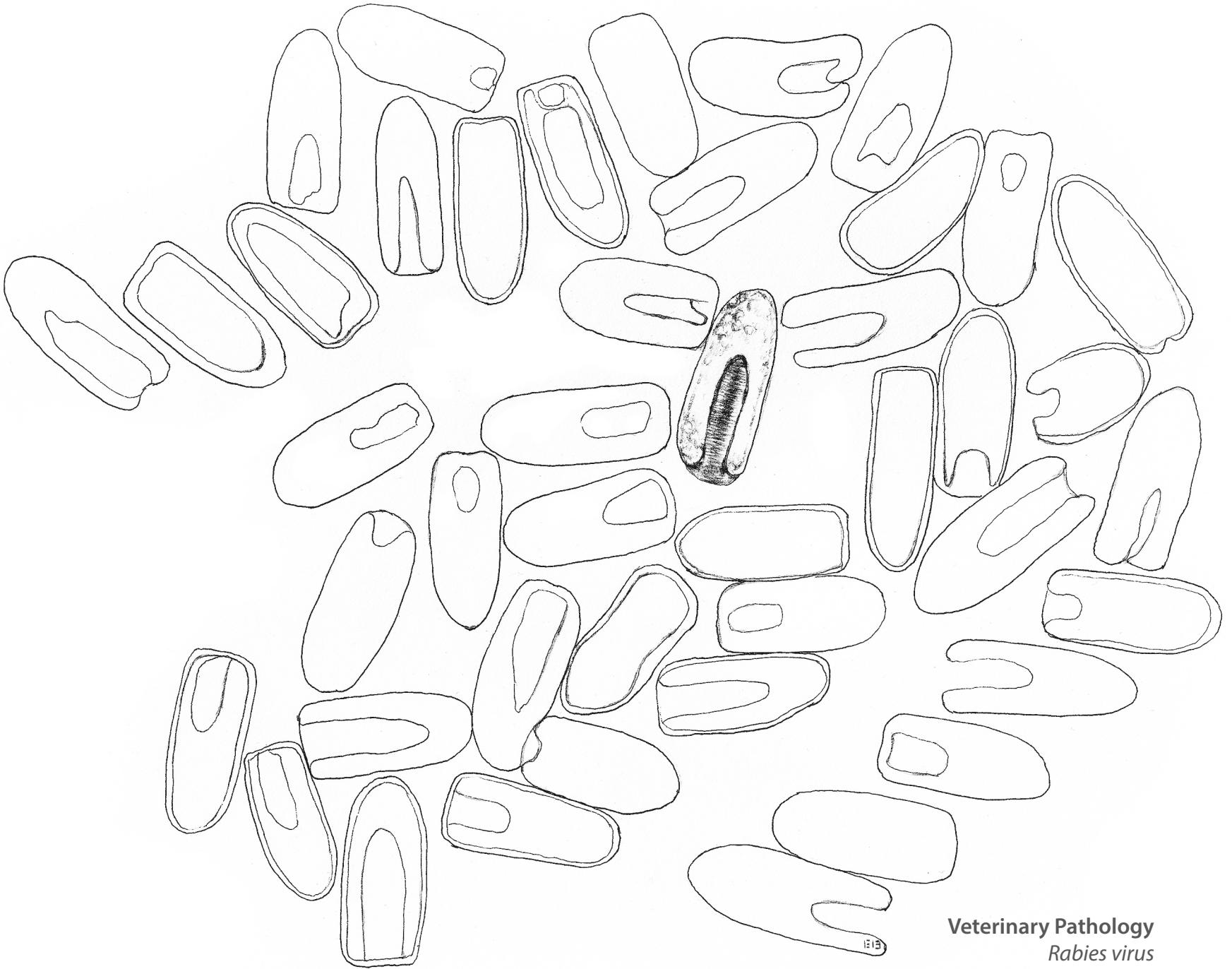
An unusual virus

Viruses are the smallest biological entity and, often, surprisingly beautiful. They consist of instructions (DNA or RNA) to make more viruses, and use cells to reproduce. In most cases your immune system (white blood cells) can recognise the intruder and destroy any infected cells to help keep you well.

Just occasionally, viruses can make you unwell. Rabies is an extremely rare virus in the UK but can be found elsewhere in the world. It is unusual in that it is passed on through an infected animal bite. Once inside the body it targets the nervous system. Pathologists can help diagnose cases of rabies.

Add colour and shading to the inside of the viruses, which appear similar in shape to bullets. In the middle are instructions to make more viruses encoded in RNA, a molecule similar to DNA. Outside the RNA core are proteins and an envelope to help the virus attack cells. Feel free to add more viruses or just enjoy the surprising patterns and beauty of those you see.

The bar at the bottom represents one micrometre (one thousandth of a millimetre). Over 500 rabies viruses lengthwise would fit across the width of a human hair.



Veterinary Pathology
Rabies virus