

NOTICE

ORAL RABIES VACCINATION AREA

The Wildlife Services (WS) program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working with the Ohio Department of Health to protect people and pets from the threat of rabies in your area. WS is distributing an oral rabies vaccine (ORV) bait to vaccinate raccoons, foxes, and coyotes and help stop further spread of rabies. ORV baits are about the size of a matchbox and are coated with fishmeal flavoring or a sweet vanilla wax. ORV baits can be distributed by airplane, helicopter, or car.



ORV Baits will be distributed between: **August 26- September 20, 2013**

What if I find rabies baits?

- If you find ORV baits, leave them alone, unless they are where children or pets play. To move ORV baits safely, you should:
 - Wear gloves or use a paper towel or plastic bag when picking up the baits.
 - Toss intact baits into a wooded area or other raccoon habitat.
 - Bag and dispose of any damaged baits in the trash.
 - Take precautions by practicing proper hygiene – wash with soap and water any skin or wounds that may have come into contact with ORV baits, especially if the bait was damaged.

What if my pet eats the bait?

- Don't panic! A few baits are not harmful, but eating a large number may cause an upset stomach.
- Do not risk getting bitten or being exposed to the vaccine by taking a bait away from your pet.
- Check the area for more baits and relocate any remaining baits to a wooded area.
- If your pet eats a bait, avoid your pet's saliva for 24 hours, and wash skin or wounds that may have been licked.

Questions about ORV or bait you have found?

- Call the Rabies Information Line at **614-752-1387**.
- Call your local health department at: **216-201-2000**.

Ohio Oral Rabies Vaccination Program: August - September 2013

At-a-Glance

| Background | <p>Rabies is a viral disease that affects animals and people and is still virtually 100 percent fatal. Raccoon-rabies variant (RRV) is of particular public health concern because it can infect so many domestic animals and people. Ohio's effort to keep RRV from spreading throughout Ohio began in 1997. A vaccine that could be eaten by wild animals was used to create a barrier of immunized raccoons along Ohio's borders with Pennsylvania and West Virginia. This strategy was very successful and in subsequent years many other states including Pennsylvania and West Virginia also began programs. This multistate oral rabies vaccination (ORV) effort is coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture's, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA-APHIS). Other cooperators involved in the Ohio effort include the Ohio departments of Health and Natural Resources (ODNR), The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dynamic Aviation and local health departments (LHDs).</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Baiting Area | <p>ORV baits will be distributed in 14 northeast Ohio counties including Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning and Trumbull, and parts of Belmont, Carroll, Cuyahoga, Harrison, Monroe, Portage, and Summit. The immune barrier runs along Ohio's border with Pennsylvania and West Virginia from Lake Erie south to the Ohio River. The western edge is I-77 in Cuyahoga County.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Start Date | <p>Baiting is slated to begin <i>around</i> August 26th. Aerial baiting in rural areas should take 4 days, weather permitting. Vehicle and helicopter distribution of ORV baits in urban and suburban neighborhoods is expected to take about 2 weeks, from August 26 – September 6, but may be extended depending on weather conditions. The base of operations is Youngstown-Elser Metro Airport in North Lima, Ohio.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bait Distribution | <p>Baits are delivered at a density of about 75 to 150 baits per square kilometer. Most of the baits will be delivered by specially equipped white Beechcraft King Air planes. They will fly over rural areas along north-south flight lines at an altitude of about 500 feet. A helicopter will also be distributing baits in targeted urban and suburban areas, parks and preserves. Ground teams, consisting of LHD personnel and other local agency volunteers, will be delivering vaccine-laden baits in urban and suburban areas, mostly by vehicle. In all, about 760,000 vaccine-laden baits will be distributed via airplane, helicopter and vehicle, covering about 4,374.8 square miles (11,330.79 km²) in Ohio.</p> | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="979 1178 1068 1209">Year</th> <th data-bbox="1109 1146 1370 1209">Raccoon Rabies Variant Animal Cases</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1997</td><td>62</td></tr> <tr><td>1998</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>46</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>38</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>2010</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>2011</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>2012</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Year | Raccoon Rabies Variant Animal Cases | 1997 | 62 | 1998 | 26 | 1999 | 6 | 2000 | 0 | 2001 | 1 | 2002 | 1 | 2003 | 2 | 2004 | 46 | 2005 | 38 | 2006 | 10 | 2007 | 20 | 2008 | 9 | 2009 | 4 | 2010 | 6 | 2011 | 13 | 2012 | 2 |
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| Program Partners | <p>USDA-APHIS, Wildlife Services Program Ohio departments of Health and Natural Resources Local Health Departments Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

For more information, please visit the USDA-APHIS or ODH web sites at

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/oral_rabies/rabies_vaccine_info.shtml

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/orv/orv1.aspx>

Oral Rabies Vaccination Program – ONRAB Field Trials Ohio Talking Points

- In August 2013, Wildlife Services and cooperators will conduct a third round of U.S. field trials with the ONRAB (Artemis Technologies, Guelph, Ontario, Canada) vaccine that is being used in Canada to control rabies in raccoons and skunks. The first U.S. field trial with ONRAB took place in West Virginia during 2011 and was expanded in 2012 to include strategic areas in Ohio, New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire. The 2013 studies will repeat the work conducted in 2012, with a small expansion in New York. The ONRAB field trial results for 2011-2013 will serve as part of the basis for potential licensure for use in the U.S. by the USDA-APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics.
- ONRAB has proven to be effective in ORV campaigns to eliminate raccoon rabies in Canada. Results from the 2011 field trial in WV were encouraging, with vaccination rates approaching 50% in raccoons. Based on these results this vaccine-bait holds promise for WS and warrants further field study to determine if it could be applied in aggressive rabies control strategies toward the elimination of raccoon rabies.
- Beginning on or about August 26th, approximately 270,000 baits containing the ONRAB oral rabies vaccine will be distributed in portions of northeast Ohio by fixed wing aircraft, helicopter, and by ground means (Figure 1). The baits contain a rabies vaccine that if consumed by a raccoon should vaccinate the animal against the rabies virus. ONRAB does not contain rabies virus, but a gene from the rabies virus that causes raccoons and skunks that consume baits to come into contact with the vaccine, which results in an immune response through the production of antibodies that protect against rabies.
- This field trial will take place within a study area approximately 2,434.36 km² in size, including 1,123.67 km² of ground and helicopter baiting. The study area will span portions of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Portage and Summit counties. In urban areas, WS and state cooperator teams will distribute baits by ground means.
- The bait consists of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) blister pack that contains the ONRAB rabies vaccine. To make the bait attractive, the blister packs are coated with a sweet attractant that includes vegetable-based fats, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil, artificial marshmallow flavor, and dark-green food-grade dye (Figure 2).
- ONRAB may cause a cold-like infection in people who come into contact with the liquid vaccine through eyes, nose, and mouth (i.e., mucous membranes) or broken skin. Symptoms that may develop include a fever, sore throat, and headache (typical cold-like symptoms). Please wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water and call the telephone number listed on the bait for further instructions and potential referral. Anyone who comes into contact with the liquid vaccine through mucous membranes or broken skin and is pregnant, has an immunodeficiency disease, or is on steroids is also recommended to contact a physician as a precaution. Most adults have been exposed to adenovirus during childhood, as adenoviruses are common and often cause asymptomatic respiratory infections.
- This vaccine has been shown to be safe in many species of animals, including domestic dogs and cats. Eating a large number of baits may cause a temporarily upset stomach in your pet but does

not pose a long-term health risk. Do not attempt to remove a bait from your pet's mouth; doing so may cause you to be bitten and result in a vaccine exposure. It is also recommended to contact a veterinarian as a precaution if a pet has consumed vaccine baits.

- Between 2006 and 2011, more than 3.6 million ONRAB baits were distributed in Ontario, Canada and no reports of adverse events with humans were reported from 64 total contact calls that occurred during that time. Approximately 3 million ONRAB baits were distributed in Quebec, Canada between 2007-2010, with 16 total contact calls and no adverse events reported.
- The goal of the USDA Wildlife Services' National Rabies Management Program is to prevent the spread of rabies in terrestrial wild carnivores such as raccoons, foxes and coyotes in the U.S. by containing and eliminating the virus. The program works cooperatively with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and multiple federal, state, and local agencies and organizations.
- Wildlife Services is part of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Its mission is to provide Federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist.
- Oral rabies vaccination has been conducted in Ohio since 1997, using edible blocks or sachets containing the vaccine Raboral V-RG® (Merial Ltd., Athens, Georgia).
- The public can help Wildlife Services and rabies control efforts by reporting strange acting animals to local animal control offices or Wildlife Services toll-free at 1-866-4-USDA-WS.
- If you find a bait, leave it undisturbed where you found it unless it is on your lawn, driveway, or other area unlikely to attract raccoons and other wildlife. Wear gloves if you move the bait to an area of thicker cover where raccoons are more likely to find it.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after contact with baits. An intact bait poses no risk. If the blister packet containing the vaccine breaks the liquid vaccine should be visible. Use gloves to place the bait in a plastic bag. Cover the bait with 1:10 dilution of household bleach, and wipe down affected areas with bleach solution. Place cleaning materials in a bag, and dispose of the bag in regular garbage.
- Vaccination of domestic pets and livestock remains critical to prevent rabies.

NOTE:

For additional information or questions regarding these talking points, responders can contact USDA WS at 1-866-4-USDAWS.

Figure 1. Locations of ONRAB and Raboral V-RG[®] 1 km² sampling cells established for proposed field trial in northeast Ohio in 2013.

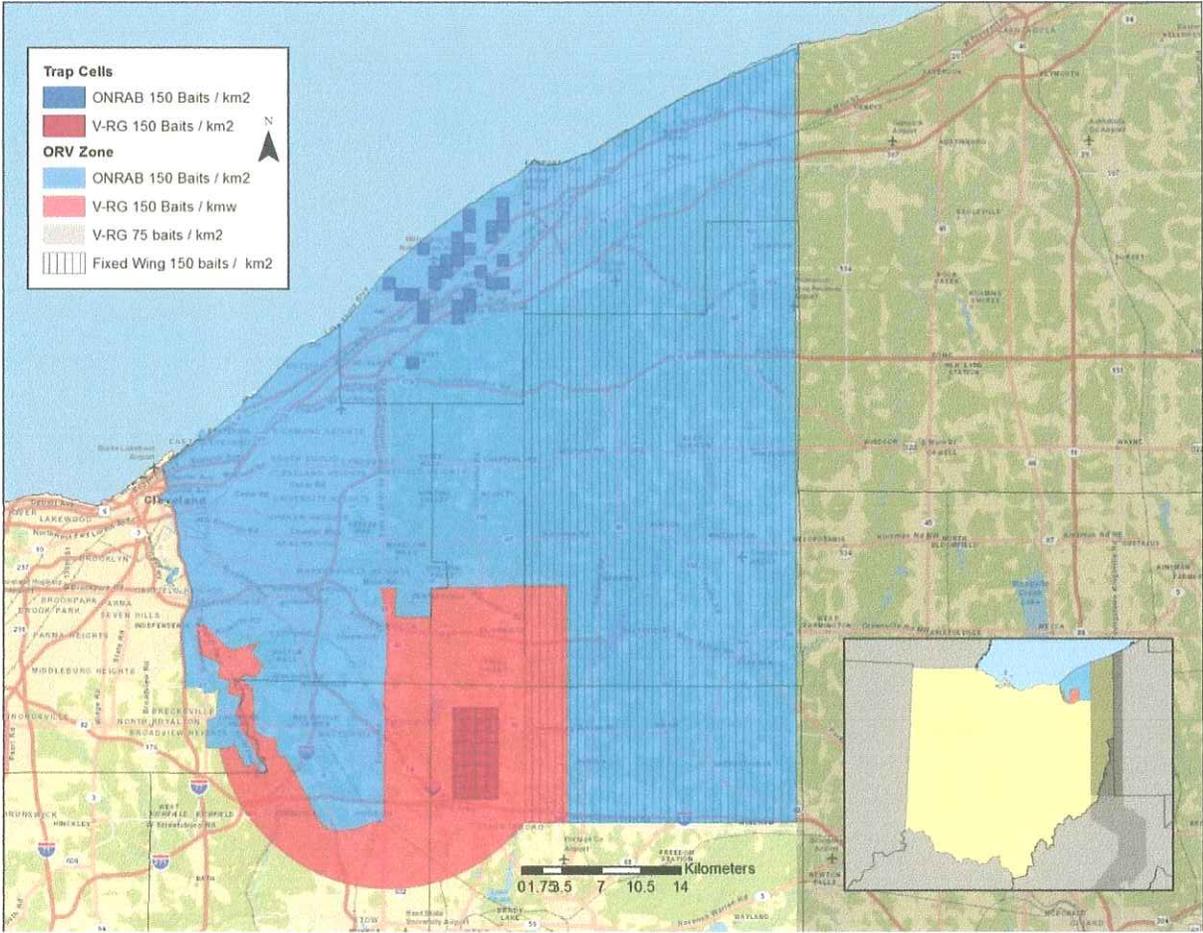


Figure 2. ONRAB “Ultralite” bait.

