

Appalachian Ridge Oral Rabies Vaccination Program – September 2009

At-a-Glance

Background	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 domestic animals and people. Ohio's effort to keep RRV from spreading throughout Ohio began in 1997. A new 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).																													
Baiting Area	ORV baits will be distributed in 16 northeast Ohio counties including Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning and Trumbull, and parts of Belmont, Carroll, Cuyahoga, Harrison, Monroe, Noble, Portage, Summit and Washington. 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																													
Start Date	Baiting is slated to begin Sept 6. Aerial baiting in rural areas should take 10 days, weather permitting. Vehicle and ground distribution of ORV baits in urban and suburban neighborhoods is expected to take about 18 days, from Sept. 8 through Sept. 25, but may be extended depending on weather conditions. The base of operations is Youngstown-Elser Metro Airport in North Lima, Ohio.																													
Bait Distribution	Baits are delivered at a density of about 75 baits per km ² or about one bait per 3.3 acres. 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 that are about 0.5 miles apart at an altitude of about 500 feet. An ODNR helicopter will also be distributing baits in targeted urban and suburban areas such as parks and preserves. Ground teams, consisting of LHD personnel, will be delivering vaccine-laden baits in urban and suburban areas, mostly by vehicle. In all, about 877,680 vaccine-laden baits will be distributed via airplane, helicopter and vehicle, covering about 4,761.3 square miles in Ohio.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>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>1 (as of August 25, 2009)</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	1 (as of August 25, 2009)
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Program Partners	Ohio departments of Health, and Natural Resources USDA-APHIS, Wildlife Services Program Centers for Disease Control and Prevention																													

For more information, please visit the ODH or USDA-APHIS web sites at:
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/orv/orv1.aspx>
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/oral_rabies/rabies_vaccine_info.shtml