

2011 Spring Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORV) Update



To help slow the westward migration of raccoon-strain rabies in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began to conduct a program to distribute an oral rabies vaccine (ORV) to help immunize wild raccoons against the virus. Detailed information on the history of this baiting program is available on the Ohio Department of Health's web site (<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/orv/orv1.aspx>).

The spring ORV program was added to the usual fall baiting program in response to infected raccoons being discovered west of the established immune barrier in Lake, Geauga and Cuyahoga counties. This year's spring ORV program will commence in Northeast Ohio on May 2nd, 2011. The larger fall baiting operation typically includes all of the counties along the entire eastern border of Ohio, along with counties in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. This spring ORV program only impacts a portion of this region. A total of five northeastern counties (Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Portage and Summit) will receive the vaccine baits.

Over 84,000 fish meal polymer baits will be distributed by hand and by helicopter throughout these counties. The total number of ground baits to be distributed by hand in Cuyahoga County during the Spring ORV Campaign will be nearly 31,000. This number includes the baiting to occur in the Cleveland Metroparks and the health jurisdictions of the cities of Cleveland and Shaker Heights. The aerial distribution does not occur in densely populated areas. The aerial bait application by helicopter will take place in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the North Chagrin and South Chagrin Metroparks reservations.

The distribution of aerial baits is scheduled to begin on May 2nd, 2011. Helicopter baiting should only take one day, weather permitting. The ground application throughout the five counties will take place between May 2nd and May 20th, 2011. The ground applied baits will be distributed by CCBH staff from clearly marked vehicles and on foot beginning on May 3rd, 2011. The ground baiting should take approximately 7 - 10 days depending on weather conditions. The proposed ground baiting schedule is provided below.

ODH advises that public service announcements will begin to run on local radio stations in the days leading up to the ORV bait distribution. As in the past, information related to the vaccination program is being disseminated to the affected communities. Please contact the Ohio Department of Health Rabies Information Line at 1-888-722-4371 with any specific questions about the program. You can also contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health at (216)201-2000 with any general questions related to the local bait distribution.

Proposed CCBH Ground Baiting Schedule*

Date

Tuesday, May 3 rd	Gates Mills, Hunting Valley, Mayfield, Highland Hts., Highland Hills
Wednesday, May 4 th	Pepper Pike, Orange, Moreland Hills, Bentleyville, Mayfield Hts.
Thursday, May 5 th	Euclid, Richmond Hts., Lyndhurst, Beachwood University Hts., Woodmere
Friday, May 6 th	Bedford, Bedford Hts., Oakwood, Solon, Glenwillow
Monday, May 9 th	Cleveland Hts., East Cleveland, Garfield Hts., Maple Hts., South Euclid, North Randall, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Twp., Bratenahl
Tuesday, May 10 th	Valley View, Walton Hills, Warrensville Hts., Independence

- * Bait distribution dates in a particular community may not be completed on the date listed and may continue on the following day depending on weather conditions and daily workload.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health reminds you to:

Avoid feeding or approaching wildlife while at a park or in the woods,

Vaccinate your companion animals against the rabies virus, and

Educate your children to stay away from wildlife and remind them not to attempt to help or to pick-up injured animals.