

Ohio Oral Rabies Vaccination Program: August - September 2016

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 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, WS). Other cooperators involved in the Ohio effort include the Ohio departments of Health (ODH) 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 12 northeast Ohio counties including Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning and Trumbull, and parts of Belmont, Carroll, Harrison, Monroe, and Portage counties. The immune barrier runs along Ohio’s border with Pennsylvania and West Virginia from Lake Erie south to the Ohio River. The western edge occurs in portions of Lake, Geauga, and Portage counties.		
Start Date	Baiting is slated to begin around August 22 nd . Aerial baiting in rural areas should take 5 days, weather permitting. Vehicle and helicopter distribution of ORV baits in urban and suburban neighborhoods is expected to take about 2 weeks, from August 24 – September 4, 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 to 150 baits per square kilometer. Most of the baits will be delivered by specially equipped white Beechcraft King Air planes. They 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. 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 917,000 vaccine-laden baits will be distributed via airplane, helicopter and vehicle, covering about 4,102 square miles (10,626 km ²) in Ohio.	Year	Raccoon Rabies Variant Animal Cases
Program Partners		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
		2013	10
		2014	5
2015	6		

For more information, please visit the USDA-APHIS or ODH web sites at
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife-damage/rabies>
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/orv>