

Ohio Oral Rabies Vaccination Program: August - September 2017

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, 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).</p>																																											
Baiting Area	<p>ORV baits will be distributed in 13 northeast Ohio counties including Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Jefferson, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Trumbull and parts of Belmont, Geauga, Harrison, and Monroe 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 Carroll, Geauga, Portage, and Stark counties.</p>																																											
Start Date	<p>Baiting is slated to begin <i>around</i> August 21st. 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 1 week, from August 26 – August 31, 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 fly over rural areas along north-south flight lines at an altitude of about 500 feet. Two helicopters will also be distributing baits in targeted urban and suburban areas. Ground teams, consisting of USDA, APHIS, WS employees, will be delivering vaccine-laden baits in urban and suburban areas, mostly by vehicle. In all, about 830,700 vaccine-laden baits will be distributed via airplane, helicopter and vehicle, covering about 3,841 square miles (9,948 km²) in Ohio.</p>	<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>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> <tr><td>2013</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>2014</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>2015</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>2016</td><td>5</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	2013	10	2014	5	2015	6	2016	5
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Program Partners	<p>USDA, APHIS, WS Program Ohio departments of Health and Natural Resources Local Health Departments Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p>																																											
<p>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</p>																																												