

Stark County Health Department

*Kirkland Norris, RS, MPH, Health Commissioner
David Benner, President of the Board of Health
Maureen Ahmann, DO, Medical Director*



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

To: Stark County Schools

**From: Kirk Norris, Stark County Health Commissioner
Randall Flint, Alliance City Health Commissioner
James Adams, Canton City Health Commissioner
Terri Argent, Massillon City Health Commissioner**

Date: May 12, 2017

Re: Rabies Awareness in Stark County

A second raccoon in Paris Township, Ohio (Stark County) has been tested and confirmed positive with raccoon rabies variant (RRV) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Stark County Health Department is working with the USDA, APHIS, and Wildlife Services (WS) to perform enhanced surveillance sample collection near the areas where the rabid raccoon was found.

We are urging residents to protect your families and pets against rabies:

- **AVOID** contact with wildlife and animals you do not know
- **TEACH** children to stay away from wildlife and unfamiliar animals
- **VACCINATE** your dogs & cats for rabies and keep them current
- **CALL** your doctor if bitten. Call your veterinarian if your pet fought with a wild animal

Stop uninvited wildlife guests by doing the following:

- **BRING** pet food in at night
- **TIGHTLY COVER** your trash
- **BOARD UP** openings in your home

USDA will begin Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) baiting to immunize wild raccoons against rabies.

Please follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on the situation and feel free to call the **Stark County Health Department at 330-493-9904 ext. 202** with any additional questions.

<http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health>

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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: **May 22- May 26, 2017**

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 **614-752-1029**.
- Call your local health department at:
 - Alliance City Health Department 330-821-7373
 - Canton City Health Department 330-489-3327
 - Stark County Health Department 330-493-9904 ext 202