

Rabies

Rabies is a matter of concern to us all. Since 1977, Ohio has been distributing a vaccine that orally vaccinates wild raccoons against rabies. Fishmeal coated packets are dropped from low flying aircraft. Local teams on foot or in vehicles distribute the same vaccine enclosed in a fishmeal block. This year's operation started April 25, 2005.

What if I find rabies bait?

Baits should be left alone – but intact baits can be moved if they are found where children and pets play. Damaged baits should be bagged, and disposed of in the trash.

- Wear gloves or use a paper towel when picking up the bait.
- Toss intact bait into a fencerow, woodlot, ditch or other raccoon habitat area.
- Wash your hands after any skin contact with damaged bait.

What if my pet eats the bait?

- A few baits are not harmful, although eating a lot may cause vomiting or diarrhea.
- Do not risk getting bitten by taking bait away from your pet.
- Confine your pet for a couple of days, and check the area for more baits.
- If your pet ate baits, avoid your pet's saliva for 24 hours, and wash skin or wounds that may have been licked.

Questions about Oral Rabies Vaccine or bait you have found?

- * Lake County General Health District 440-350-2543
- * Ohio Department of Health 888-722-4371