



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bob Wise  
Governor

Paul L. Nusbaum  
Secretary

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 2004

**TO:** Correctional Facilities in the Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) Distribution Area

**FROM:** The West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Project

**RE:** **ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM**

With a goal to stop the spread of the raccoon rabies variant in West Virginia, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, supported by other state and federal agencies, has implemented a program to immunize wild raccoons for rabies.

During August and September 2004, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and cooperators will be distributing rabies vaccine-laced baits to establish an immune barrier to halt the spread of raccoon strain rabies in West Virginia. We anticipate completion by the end of September. The target area covers a wide corridor through the central part of the state, extending from the northern panhandle to the southern coalfields. We will be using low-flying fixed wing aircraft to distribute the baits. Also, enclosed are two brochures which explain the Oral Rabies Vaccine project.

A map of the distribution area is enclosed, and other information will be available at: [www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/sdc/rabies\\_orv.htm](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/sdc/rabies_orv.htm)

Every effort will be made to ensure that no baits are dropped over correctional facilities within the oral rabies vaccine distribution area.

Please do not hesitate to contact your local health department or the West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Project at 1-800-423-1271 if you have any questions regarding the scheduled bait drop. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important public health effort.