

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bob Wise Governor

Paul L. Nusbaum Secretary

Important Information Regarding Raccoon Rabies

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 Raboral-V-RG, an oral rabies vaccine for wild raccoons, 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 (please refer to the enclosed map).

Please take time and review the enclosed materials regarding the Oral Rabies Vaccine.

If you have any further questions, please contact your local health department or the West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Project at 1-800-423-1271.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important public health effort.