

ORV Bait

What is in the ORV bait?

The bait is a square block made of fish meal and fish oil. Raccoons like the smell and taste of the bait. The vaccine is inside a plastic packet in the middle of the block.

What if I find a bait near my home?

Leave it alone, or if it is intact and out in the open, toss it into deeper cover.

Are gloves required to handle the bait, or will I be harmed if I handle the intact bait without gloves?

It is not harmful to touch an intact bait; however, the bait does have a strong odor, so you might prefer to wear gloves when handling it. Wash your hands thoroughly after any direct contact with the bait.

What if my dog or cat eats a bait?

The bait is not harmful to dogs or cats. Do not try to take the bait from an animal.

What if my child eats a bait?

In the unlikely event that a child bites the bait or the actual vaccine packet, contact the West Virginia ORV Program at 1-800-423-1271.

If my child or pet eats the vaccine, will either of them get rabies?

No. It is not possible to get rabies from the vaccine. The vaccine does not contain the rabies virus, only a single gene from that virus.

Can this vaccine be used to vaccinate my dog or cat against rabies?

No. Vaccination of pets should be done by veterinarians in accordance with state and local laws. Pet vaccination is necessary to protect your pet against rabies.



Surveillance Contact Information

If this brochure is being distributed by a West Virginia local health department, please provide the telephone number of your health department, local wildlife control personnel, animal control officer, and any other telephone number that citizens in your community can use to assist you in your active surveillance efforts.

Agency

Telephone

The West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Program would like to thank the Ohio Department of Health for providing samples of public education materials used during Ohio's Oral Rabies Vaccination Project.



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Bureau for Public Health
Oral Rabies Vaccination Program
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www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/sdc/rabies.htm

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Raccoon Rabies Active Surveillance and the West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Program

Frequently
Asked
Questions

Raccoon Rabies

What is raccoon rabies?

Raccoon rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the brain. Symptoms include unusual or aggressive behavior, an inability to eat or drink, balance problems, circling, seizures, coma, and death. Rabies is also found in skunks, foxes, bats, and other wildlife. Wild animals can infect cats, dogs, other pets, and domestic animals.

Why should I be concerned about raccoon rabies?

Raccoons are more likely to be around people and pets than are other types of wildlife. Raccoon rabies was first seen in West Virginia in 1977 in the eastern part of the state and has slowly spread westward. Through active surveillance efforts, raccoon rabies was newly confirmed in Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh, and Webster counties in 2001. Raccoon rabies is getting closer to the population centers of Kanawha and Wood counties, and, without active surveillance and oral rabies vaccination, may reach the Ohio River and beyond.

How can I become infected with the rabies virus?

The rabies virus is in the saliva of infected animals. Rabies can be spread if the saliva of an infected animal gets into a bite, scratch, scrape, or open wound.

What should I do if I am bitten by or exposed to an animal that might have rabies?

Wash the wound with soap and water immediately. Capture or kill the animal, if possible, but do not damage the animal's head. Go to your family doctor or the emergency room. Call your local health department for any questions.

How can I protect myself from possible exposure?

Do not feed, touch, or adopt wild animals. Stay away from stray dogs or cats. Have your pets vaccinated against rabies. Tightly cap garbage cans. Do not leave pet food outside because this may attract wild or stray animals to your home or yard.

ORV Program

What is the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program?

The Oral Rabies Vaccination Program for raccoons is like any immunization program. Just as children are vaccinated against measles or mumps, raccoons are vaccinated against rabies.

Who is conducting the ORV Program?

The ORV Program is a cooperative effort between your local health department, the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and many other state and local organizations.

How is a raccoon vaccinated?

A raccoon is vaccinated by eating a bait containing the vaccine. Baits are dropped in areas where raccoons are likely to find them.

Where will the baits be dropped?

The vaccination area will be determined by mapping the areas where rabid raccoons are found. The vaccine will be air and hand dropped in a 35-mile wide zone to the west of the area where raccoon rabies is found. This will prevent further westward spread.

When will the baits be dropped?

The bait drop will take place in August- September 2003.

How can I help with the ORV Program?

You can help your local health department and animal control personnel in their active raccoon rabies surveillance efforts. After the baits are dropped, you can help by being aware of what the baits look like and encouraging children to leave them alone. Pet owners can help by keeping all dogs and cats inside or on a leash so the baits can be eaten by raccoons. Most of the baits will be gone within 10-14 days of being dropped.

Active Surveillance

What is active raccoon rabies surveillance?

This means that local health departments are actively looking for cases of raccoon rabies.

Where is active surveillance underway?

Many local health departments in the western part of the state are conducting active surveillance. The surveillance area can change depending on where cases of raccoon rabies are found.

How is active surveillance conducted?

During active surveillance, all raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes with abnormal behavior are tested for rabies. Roadkill animals can also be tested for rabies. Skunks, foxes, and coyotes are tested because they can become infected with raccoon rabies.

What is considered abnormal behavior?

Abnormal behavior includes:

- Attacking people or animals
- Being out in the open during daylight hours
- "Drunken" behavior
- Appearing sick or injured
- Acting "strange"

Healthy trapped raccoons should not be tested.

How can I help with active surveillance?

Do not attempt to collect an active surveillance animal! Contact wildlife or animal control personnel in your area if you see an animal with abnormal behavior or roadkill. You can also call your local health department for assistance.

