

Bob Wise
Governor

Paul L. Nusbaum
Secretary

ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM

To: West Virginia Local Health Departments and Interested Parties
From: Jane Rooney, DVM, West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Program
Date: August 23, 2001
Re: June and July 2001 Active Rabies Surveillance Project Update

Project Updates

Bait Drop Area Determined - Representatives from each agency involved in West Virginia's upcoming bait drop met on July 20, 2001 to review maps and data generated from the spring and summer surveillance activities. Several bait drop area configurations were proposed, each based on the number of baits available and the land area that can be covered with this number of baits. Other factors considered included newly discovered raccoon rabies cases in Raleigh, Fayette, Nicholas, and Webster counties, location of raccoon habitat along rivers and streams, and population centers targeted for protection from the advancing front. This group hammered out a single bait drop area map, and this map was presented to the West Virginia Zoonosis Task Force on July 26. After discussion on the proposal, the group agreed to a finalized bait drop area plan. The baits will be dropped along a 15 to 30 mile wide corridor through the central part of the state, extending from the northern panhandle to the southern coalfields. Involved counties will include Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Lewis, Marshall, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Raleigh, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wetzel, and Wyoming.

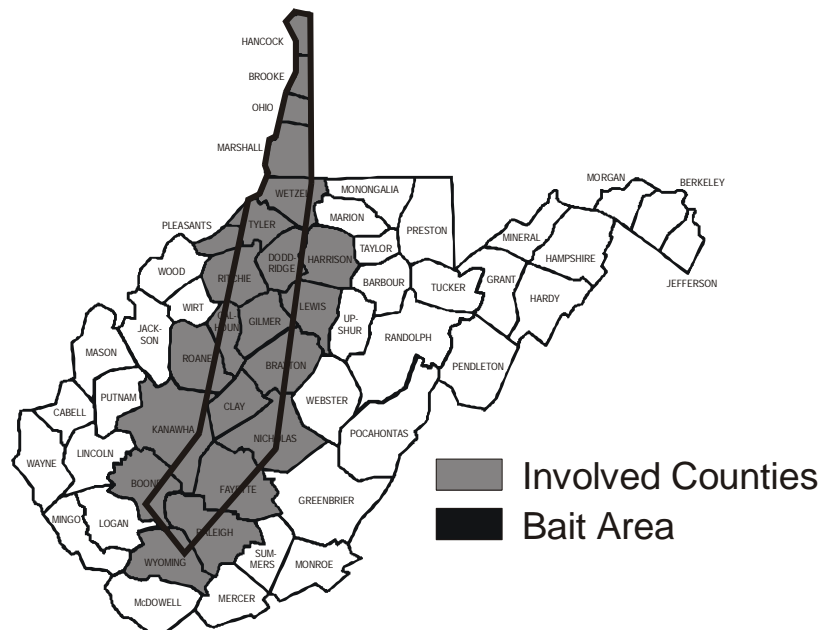
Bait Drop Scheduled for September 10 - 21, 2001 - West Virginia's bait drop will occur in conjunction with Ohio's bait drop and will begin on September 10, 2001. Weather permitting, the drop should be completed by September 21.

Rabies Website Established - The Division of Surveillance and Disease Control has established a website to provide information on bait drop and active surveillance activities. Public awareness material can be downloaded directly from this website. The site can be visited at **www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/sdc/rabies.htm**.

Positive Raccoon Identified in Fayette County in July - Active surveillance efforts led to the identification of raccoon rabies in Fayette County in July. Since January 2001, raccoon rabies has been discovered in Raleigh, Fayette, Nicholas, and Webster counties, confirming that the raccoon rabies front has crossed the mountains in this area of the state.

West Virginia Raccoon Rabies Bait Drop Plan

September 10, 2001 to September 21, 2001



June/July Data and Data Completeness

The number of active surveillance specimens rose from 61 in May to 105 in June. May's completeness rate was 75%, while June's completeness rate was an excellent 95%. July data reflects a total of 71 submissions and a completeness rate of 93%. A total of 300 submissions have been tested during the February to July active surveillance period.

Active surveillance counties have been providing latitude and longitude coordinates on nearly all specimens submitted. Specimens without coordinates on initial submission to the state lab are usually human or animal exposures, and the local health department cannot wait to get this information before sending the specimen for testing. This information is usually provided as soon as it can be collected by the health department. Additionally, some animal control agencies submit specimens directly to the state lab for testing, without going through the local health department. Although these specimens are included in the county's data, the completeness rate does not necessarily reflect omission of this data by the local health department. Data on these specimens are collected by the local health department when possible.

A Note to Counties in the Drop Zone

An information packet has been provided to the 22 counties in the bait drop area. Public meetings are being scheduled between August 27 and September 7 throughout these counties. School will be back in session in most of these counties by August 27. Material from the information packets should be provided to superintendents or school nurses as soon as possible for distribution by the school system. Young children are especially good at taking home paperwork to their parents!

WEST VIRGINIA ACTIVE RABIES SURVEILLANCE - JUNE 2001								
Number of Satisfactory Specimens Submitted and Completeness of Data								
County	Raccoons Tested	Skunks Tested	Foxes Tested	Coyotes Tested	Total Tested	Total With Complete Data	Percent Completeness	Total Pos.*
BOONE	6	0	0	0	6	6	100%	0
BRAXTON	12	0	0	0	12	12	100%	0
CALHOUN	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
CLAY	6	1	0	0	7	7	100%	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
FAYETTE	1	2	0	0	3	3	100%	0
GILMER	3	0	0	0	3	3	100%	0
KANAWHA	3	0	0	0	3	2	67%	0
LOGAN	1	0	0	0	1	0	0%	0
MINGO	3	0	0	0	3	3	100%	0
NICHOLAS	15	0	5	0	20	20	100%	0
PLEASANTS	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
RALEIGH	11	0	0	0	11	9	82%	0
RITCHIE	1	0	0	0	1	1	100%	0
ROANE	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
TYLER	9	0	0	0	9	9	100%	0
WEBSTER	16	2	2	0	20	20	100%	1
WIRT	1	0	0	0	1	0	0%	0
WOOD	3	0	0	0	3	3	100%	0
WYOMING	2	0	0	0	2	2	100%	0
TOTAL	93	5	7	0	105	100	95%	1

*Webster County raccoon tested positive

WEST VIRGINIA ACTIVE RABIES SURVEILLANCE - JULY 2001								
Number of Satisfactory Specimens Submitted and Completeness of Data								
County	Raccoons Tested	Skunks Tested	Foxes Tested	Coyotes Tested	Total Tested	Total With Complete Data	Percent Completeness	Total Pos.*
BOONE	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
BRAXTON	3	0	0	0	3	3	100%	0
CALHOUN	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
CLAY	2	0	1	0	3	3	100%	0
DODDRIDGE	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
FAYETTE	4	0	0	0	4	3	75%	1
GILMER	4	0	0	0	4	4	100%	0
KANAWHA	6	0	0	0	6	2	33%	0
LOGAN	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
MINGO	2	0	0	0	2	2	100%	0
NICHOLAS	18	1	0	0	19	19	100%	0
PLEASANTS	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
RALEIGH	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
RITCHIE	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
ROANE	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
TYLER	5	0	0	0	5	5	100%	0
WEBSTER	13	5	4	0	22	22	100%	0
WIRT	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
WOOD	3	0	0	0	3	3	100%	0
WYOMING	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
TOTAL	60	6	5	0	71	66	93%	1

*Fayette County raccoon tested positive

ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE COUNTIES: Although the bait drop area has been determined, it is important that active surveillance counties continue to collect specimens. We hope to provide new contracts to extend and expand active surveillance after the bait drop occurs. Continued testing will be important to determine the effectiveness of the drop. Counties will be notified as soon as possible if additional funding becomes available.