



Bob Wise  
Governor

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

# ORAL RABIES VACCINATION PROJECT MEMORANDUM



Paul L. Nusbaum  
Secretary

To: West Virginia Active Rabies Surveillance Counties and Interested Parties  
From: Jane Rooney, DVM, West Virginia Oral Rabies Vaccination Project  
Date: June 25, 2002  
Re: June 2002 Active Rabies Surveillance Project Update

## Project Updates

**First Year Post-Bait Trapping Results** - USDA Wildlife Services initiated post-ORV surveillance trapping two weeks after the September 2001 bait drop. Eight different sampling sites within the ORV barrier were trapped between mid-October to mid-November. Each location was trapped for three to four nights, and a total of 54 raccoons were captured. Blood and tooth samples were taken and submitted to the CDC for testing. Twenty percent of these blood samples were seropositive.

**Second Year Active Surveillance Area Expanded to Include 29 Counties** - The second year of the West Virginia ORV Project is well underway. This year, active surveillance was expanded to include all 29 counties that received oral vaccine in 2001. These counties are Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Hancock, Harrison, Kanawha, Lewis, Logan, Marshall, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Nicholas, Ohio, Pleasants, Raleigh, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, and Wyoming. Expanding surveillance will increase our ability to determine the overall effectiveness of the vaccine project and appropriate placement of the barrier in future years.

**Second Year Bait Drop Area to be Expanded** - The ORV barrier will be expanded in 2002 due to an increase in federal funding for the USDA Wildlife Services Oral Rabies Program. The barrier will be extended into two new states, Virginia and Tennessee, and more area will be vaccinated in both West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Nine new counties in West Virginia will receive vaccine, which include Barbour, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster (see attached map).

**Second Year Aerial Operations Scheduled for August 2002; Volunteers Requested** - Aerial operations are scheduled to begin in Ohio on August 5. The northern portion of the barrier will take approximately 10 days to complete, barring any unforeseen events or weather delays. The aerial operation will then relocate to Summersville, West Virginia, and continue distribution of vaccine in the southern portion of the barrier. Tentative dates for the start of distribution from Summersville are August 15 - 16. Frequent updates will be provided once operations have begun. As announced on the June 14 local health department conference call, we are soliciting assistance with the aerial operation. If there are any staff members from local health departments who can commit at least three consecutive days and would like to participate in the aerial operation, please contact Dr. Rooney at (304) 558-6432. Counties included in the vaccination barrier are encouraged to continue educating the public about ORV using updated materials found on the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' website at [www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/sdc/rabies.htm](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bph/oehp/sdc/rabies.htm) and through public meetings.

**Second Year Ground Baiting to be Conducted** - Ground distribution of baits will occur again this year in areas where aerial distribution is not possible and where it is estimated that more than 200 baits are needed. Approximately 27,604 ground baits will be distributed in 40

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Baiting Statistics for West Virginia, 2002				
	Sq. Mi.	Sq. Km.	Baits	%
Total Area	8,976.80	23,249.37	1,743,703	100.00
Ground Baited	142.11	368.05	27,604	1.60
Air Baited	8,834.69	22,881.32	1,716,099	98.40



urban/suburban areas (see ground baiting estimates table below). This is less than half the number of ground baits distributed last year. Timing of ground baiting should coincide with aerial distribution this year and should, preferably, not extend more than a week past the last flight day.

## 2001 Rabies Testing in West Virginia

The rabies laboratory received 1,530 specimens for testing in 2001. Of these submissions, 1,497 were suitable for testing. A total of 9.4% (141/1,497) were positive for rabies. Animals testing positive were 96 raccoons, 22 skunks, 11 bats, 6 cats, 3 foxes, 1 dog, 1 bobcat, and 1 opossum.

During the first five months of 2002, 14.4% (75/521) of the specimens submitted for testing were positive for rabies. Animals testing positive through May are 60 raccoons, 7 skunks, 2 foxes, 2 cats, 2 bobcats, 1 cow, and 1 beaver. In late May, Braxton County found its first rabies positive raccoon, which was submitted due to a domestic animal exposure. The raccoon was from an area that borders Lewis County and was east of last year's vaccination zone.

**ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE COUNTIES:** Please provide latitude and longitude on all raccoon, skunk, fox, and coyote specimens submitted for testing. Although the entire head must be submitted in exposure cases, these specimens can be included on monthly invoices if coordinates are provided.

<b>WEST VIRGINIA ACTIVE RABIES SURVEILLANCE - OCTOBER 2001 to MAY 2002</b>										
<b>Number of Satisfactory Specimens Submitted and Number of Positives</b>										
County	OCT 2001	NOV 2001	DEC 2001	JAN 2002	FEB 2002	MAR 2002	APR 2002	MAY 2002	Monthly Average	Total Positive Oct to May
BOONE									0.0	
BRAXTON	1		1				1	6	1.1	1
BROOKE							3	4	0.9	1
CALHOUN			1						0.1	
CLAY	1							1	0.3	
DODDRIDGE			1				2	1	0.5	
FAYETTE	1	2		1		3	2	4	1.6	
GILMER	3	2					3		1.0	
HANCOCK	2	1	2		14	12	14	15	7.5	3
HARRISON		1	1			1	1		0.5	1
KANAWHA	1	1	3		1	3	1	2	1.5	
LEWIS	2				2	3	3	1	1.4	2
LOGAN						1			0.1	
MARSHALL	1					1	4	1	0.9	2
McDOWELL									0.0	
MERCER	1				1	11	5	6	3.0	3
MINGO							1		0.1	
NICHOLAS	6	6	1	3		6	5	1	3.5	
OHIO				2					0.3	1
PLEASANTS									0.0	
RALEIGH	1						3	4	1.0	2
RITCHIE		2	1			1		2	0.8	
ROANE									0.0	
TYLER									0.0	
WEBSTER	24	12	4	1	2	7	9	15	9.3	2
WETZEL						1			0.1	1
WIRT									0.0	
WOOD	1	1					1	1	0.5	
WYOMING		1						1	0.3	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>19</b>

<b>Ground Baiting Estimates in West Virginia, 2002</b>							
Town	Sq. Mi.	Sq. Km.	Baits	Town	Sq. Mi.	Sq. Km.	Baits
Ansted	1.67	4.34	325	Mannington	1.12	2.91	218
Beckley	9.10	23.56	1,767	Montgomery	1.55	4.02	302
Belington	2.15	5.57	418	Morgantown	8.06	20.87	1,565
Benwood	1.84	4.76	357	Moundsville	3.36	8.70	653
Bethlehem	3.53	9.13	685	Mullens	1.91	4.94	370
Bridgeport	7.58	19.64	1,473	New Cumberland	1.25	3.23	242
Buckhannon	1.80	4.65	349	New Martinsville	2.77	7.18	538
Clarksburg	9.54	24.70	1,852	Oak Hill	3.89	10.07	755
Davy	1.29	3.34	251	Oceana	1.32	3.41	256
Fairmont	8.05	20.84	1,563	Pennsboro	2.17	5.63	422
Fayetteville	1.53	3.96	297	Philippi	2.74	7.10	533
Flatwoods	1.06	2.74	205	Salem	1.28	3.32	249
Follansbee	2.01	5.21	391	Shinnston	1.61	4.18	313
Gassaway	1.21	3.13	235	Summersville	3.66	9.47	710
Gauley Bridge	1.64	4.26	319	Weirton	19.31	50.02	3,752
Gilbert	1.09	2.82	212	Welch	3.25	8.42	631
Glen Dale	1.14	2.96	222	Wellsburg	1.39	3.61	271
Glennville	1.08	2.80	210	Weston	1.78	4.60	345
Grafton	3.73	9.66	725	Westover	1.31	3.41	255
Harrisville	1.64	4.26	319	Wheeling	15.68	40.62	3,046