
Joint News Release

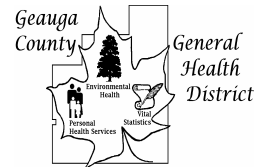
For Immediate Release
April 4, 2006



Cleveland Department of Public Health
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Cuyahoga County Board of Health
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RACCOON VACCINATION WILL START APRIL 17, 2006

Starting on April 17, 2006 and continuing for the remainder of that week, depending on weather, the United States Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will begin vaccinating raccoons for rabies. The following counties will be participating in this program: Lake, Geauga and parts of Cuyahoga, Portage, and Summit Counties.

A raccoon is vaccinated by eating bait containing the vaccine. Both ground baiting (using vehicles in more densely populated areas) and aerial baiting (using an airplane in rural areas) will be used. On average, one bait is found for every 3.3 acres covering a total of 1,149 square miles.

The bait is not harmful to humans, pets, or livestock. The bait is made of fishmeal, an ingredient

in animal feed, so it is not harmful to touch intact bait. If you find intact bait near your home, leave it alone. However, if the bait is out in the open or where contact by pets or children is possible, put on gloves and toss it into deeper cover. If the bait is broken open or damaged, wear gloves or protect your hands by using a paper towel or plastic bag before picking it up and discarding it.

Important Reminders:

- Keep dogs and cats inside or on leashes for several days after your area has been baited. Most bait will be gone in about three days.
- Tell your children about the raccoon vaccination program and tell them to leave any bait alone.
- Do not attempt to take bait away from your pet! That is the same as taking food away from an animal. You may be bitten.
- Baits may be picked up while wearing gloves, or with a plastic bag or towel.
- Do not handle partially eaten or damaged bait with bare hands.
- Damaged baits should be placed in a baggie and disposed of in normal trash.
- If you touch the bait or the liquid vaccine (a red fluid inside the bait), thoroughly wash your hands or exposed skin with soap and water.

Remember:

AVOID contact with animals.

VACCINATE pets against the rabies virus.

CALL your local Health District to report an encounter with a wild animal.

For more information, please call your local health district or visit their web sites:

Cleveland Department of Public Health	(216) 664-6790
Cuyahoga County Board of Health	(216) 201-2000
Geauga County General Health District	(440) 279-1900
Lake County General Health District	(440) 350-2543

Other web sites are: USDA-APHIS website at www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies/index.html or the Ohio Department of Health at www.odh.ohio.gov/ODHPrograms/ZOODIS/Rabies/rab1.htm.

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Appalachian Ridge Spring ORV Project

1,149 square miles (2,975 square kilometers)
138,240 (CS) Fixed-Wing Distribution
103,680 (FMP) Hand / Helicopter Distribution

