

## 2010 Fall Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Program

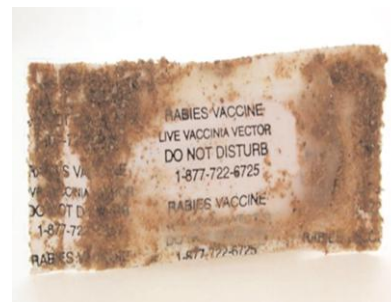


To help slow the westward migration of raccoon-strain rabies in Ohio, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began to conduct a program to distribute an oral rabies vaccine (ORV) to help immunize wild raccoons against the virus. Detailed information on the history of this baiting program is available on the Ohio Department of Health's web site (<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/orv/orv1.aspx>).

The fall baiting operation typically includes all of the counties along the entire eastern border of Ohio, along with counties in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The purpose of the routine fall ORV baiting is to maintain the 25-mile-wide immune barrier along Ohio's borders with Pennsylvania and West Virginia. All or parts of 14 counties (Ashtabula, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning, Monroe, Portage, Summit, and Trumbull) will be baited during the Fall ORV Program. Approximately 772,686 fish meal polymer baits will be distributed by hand, by helicopter and by fixed-wing aircraft throughout these counties.



Fishmeal polymer bait



Coated sachet aerial bait

ODH has advised that local health department and Cleveland Metroparks staff will be asked to distribute nearly 61,000 baits throughout Cuyahoga County by hand. The vaccine will be inside hard, brown fishmeal blocks that are 2-x-2 inches in size. The ground baiting will commence in Cuyahoga County on August 31<sup>st</sup> and should take between 6 to 8 days to complete depending on weather conditions. The aerial distribution of baits does not occur in densely populated areas. The aerial bait application in Cuyahoga County will all be by helicopter and will take place in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The fishmeal polymer baits will also be utilized in the helicopter application. In other more rural areas of Ohio, fixed-wing aircraft will distribute baits that are the shape of a small, plastic sachet, roughly the size of a ketchup packet, coated in fishmeal.

The ground baiting schedule for communities in Cuyahoga County is posted below. To assist in ensuring thorough bait distribution, the USDA has broken the eastern portion of Cuyahoga County into numerous grids. A predetermined number of baits are to be distributed by hand throughout the specific grids. In some cases, parts of a larger community may be located in different grids. As a result, sections of a community may be baited on subsequent days. Prior to initiating baiting each morning, someone from our office will contact the Service Department and the Police Dispatcher in each community to be baited that day.

**If you happen to come across a bait, please leave it alone.** If the bait has to be moved because it is in an area where children or pets play, put on a pair of gloves or use a paper towel to pick up the bait and move it to a wooded area, a ditch or any other habitat that may attract raccoons. You should always wash your hands after handling a bait, especially if it is damaged.

ODH will begin to run public service announcements on local radio stations in the days leading up to the ORV bait distribution. As in the past, information related to the ORV program will be disseminated to the affected communities. Please contact the Ohio Department of Health Rabies Information Line at 1-888-722-4371 with any specific questions about the program. You can also visit our website ([www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net)) or contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health at (216)201-2000 with any general questions related to the local bait distribution.

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health reminds you to:

**Avoid** feeding or approaching wildlife while at a park or in the woods,

**Vaccinate** your companion animals against the rabies virus, and

**Educate** your children to stay away from wildlife and remind them not to attempt to help or to pick-up injured animals.

### **Proposed ORV Ground Baiting Schedule\***

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communities</u>
Tue. August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Gates Mills, Hunting Valley, Mayfield Village, Highland Hts., Highland Hills
Wed. September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pepper Pike, Orange Village, Moreland Hills, Bentleyville, Mayfield Hts.
Thur. September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Euclid, Richmond Hts., Lyndhurst, Beachwood, University Hts., Woodmere
Fri. September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bedford, Bedford Hts., Oakwood, Solon, Glenwillow
Tue. September 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cleveland Hts., East Cleveland, Garfield Hts., Maple Hts., South Euclid, North Randall, Chagrin Falls, Chagrin Falls Twp.

Wed. September 8<sup>th</sup>

Valley View, Walton Hills, Warrensville Hts.,  
Independence

**\*Note:** Bait distribution in a particular community may not be completed on the date specified and may continue on the following day depending on weather conditions and daily workload.