



Lake County General Health District

NEWS RELEASE
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CONTACT: NANCY NIEHUS, (440) 350-2543
LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

RACCOON RABIES VACCINATION TO BEGIN AUGUST 27, 2013

The Lake County General Health District will be cooperating with the USDA in the annual oral rabies vaccination (ORV) to immunize raccoons, skunks and other wild meat-eating animals against rabies. The ORV will begin on August 27, 2013 and continue through September 6, 2013 in northeast Ohio. Bait containing wildlife rabies vaccine will be distributed in areas where raccoons and skunks live by airplane in rural areas and by marked vehicle or on foot in populated areas. The vaccine is contained in a 1 by 1 ½ inch “Army green” blister pack with a sweet waxy coating. When the animal bites the blister pack, the vaccine coats the mouth and throat and protects the animal from getting rabies.

Humans and pets cannot get rabies from touching the bait, but dogs may be attracted to the odor of the bait. Be aware of the bait. Be sure to watch your dogs while they are outdoors and keep them on a short leash during the days when baiting is taking place. Although the bait is not harmful to them, they should be prevented from eating it so it is available for the wild animals. If your dog gets the bait, do not risk being bitten by trying to remove it from the dog’s mouth. If you find bait, do not touch it with bare hands. If possible, use a glove or plastic bag to toss bait that is not leaking into deeper cover. Wash your hands whenever bait is handled, even if you are using a glove or plastic bag. The Health District is asking that you call us at (440) 350-2543 whenever you or your pet comes into contact with bait for tracking purposes.

Rabies is a viral disease that affects animals and people. The type of rabies associated with raccoons is of particular public health concern because it can affect other wild animals and pets. The virus is found in the saliva of affected animals (most often raccoons, skunks, and bats) and is spread by a bite or scratch. Regular rabies vaccination of pets, as well as avoiding contact with wildlife is the best protection against this deadly virus.

For more information about rabies or the ORV project, please visit www.lcghd.org or www.odh.ohio.gov.

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