



MAHONING COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

PREVENT · PROMOTE · PROTECT

Address
50 Westchester Drive
Youngstown, Ohio 44515

Phone
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Toll Free
(800) 873-6243

Laboratory Services
330-270-2841

Website
www.mahoninghealth.org

Facebook & Twitter
@mahoninghealth



Austintown
330-792-2397

Boardman
330-788-1485

Youngstown
234-855-1575



Phone
330-270-2855 ext. 136



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: August 16, 2019	Contact: Ryan Tekac
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Raccoon Identified as Positive for Rabies in Mahoning County

An Ohio Department of Health Laboratory report has confirmed that a raccoon located in Boardman Township has tested positive for the rabies virus variant common to raccoons in the US. The raccoon was found in southwest Boardman Township due to a reported exposure between the raccoon, 2 domestic canines, and the canines' owner. The canines were not current on their rabies vaccination but have since received a booster vaccination. Due to the rabies vaccination not being current, the canines will be quarantined for 180 days for precautionary measures.

Mahoning County Public Health is reminding residents to protect themselves from the ever-present threat of rabies by following these precautions:

- Vaccinate your pets.
- Maintain control of your pets to reduce their exposure to wildlife.
- Spay or neuter to decrease the number of stray animals.
- Avoid contact with wildlife and stray animals.
- Wash any animal bite areas thoroughly and follow up with a physician.
- Report any bite incidents to your local health department

"Rabies is most often transmitted through bites and scratches from unvaccinated pets, strays, and wildlife. Residents should be watchful and not interact with or feed wildlife," says Ryan Tekac, Director of Environmental Health for Mahoning County Public Health. "Pets should be fed indoors and trash can lids secured to avoid attracting wildlife onto your property."

To immunize wild raccoons in Mahoning County the Ohio Department of Health will be distributing Rabies vaccine-laden baits by air and ground between August 23, 2019 and September 3, 2019.

There is no risk to someone handling an intact bait. If someone is exposed to the liquid inside the bait, hands or other exposed skin should be thoroughly washed with soap and water.

Ingesting vaccine will not harm your pet. Baits can be removed from the area where your pet could find them and eat them. Wear gloves or use a paper towel when you pick up a bait. Pets ingesting numerous baits may experience vomiting or diarrhea that is self-limiting.



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All adverse reactions should be reported to the Ohio Department of Health at 1-888-574-6656.

For further information on raccoon rabies and the vaccine bait, see the websites below:

<https://www.mahoninghealth.org/animal-health-rabies/>

Ohio Department of Health www.odh.ohio.gov and search for "Oral Rabies Vaccination Campaign"

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>

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