



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Mahoning County  
District Board of Health**

**NEWS RELEASE**

<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>	<b>CONTACT:</b> Matthew Stefanak, MPH Health Commissioner <a href="mailto:mstefanak@mahoninghealth.org">mstefanak@mahoninghealth.org</a> (330) 270-2855 ext. 144
	<b>DATE:</b> September 29, 2011

**Raccoon Identified As Positive for Rabies in Mahoning County**

Laboratory reports have recently confirmed that a raccoon found in Struthers was positive for the rabies virus variant common to raccoons in the Eastern United States. The raccoon was found in the vicinity of West Parkcliff Avenue. There is a known exposure between this raccoon and a domestic animal which has been ordered to be isolated from other people or animals.

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

- Do not feed, touch or adopt wild animals and be cautious around stray cats and dogs.
- Teach children to leave wildlife alone and be sure that your child knows to tell you if an animal bites or scratches them.
- Have your pet cats, dogs, and ferrets vaccinated for rabies and keep their vaccinations current.
- Keep trash can lids secure. Open containers can attract wildlife.
- Feed pets indoors. Never leave food outdoors that can attract wildlife.
- Report any bite incidents to your local health department and call your doctor for medical advice.

Rabies is a fatal viral zoonosis and a serious public health threat. All mammals, such as raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats, are believed susceptible to the disease. Rabies is transmitted when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from saliva. Questions concerning potential exposures can be directed to the local health department or state health department as follows;

- Please contact the Youngstown City Health District at (330) 743 - 3333 if you are involved in a pet or human exposure in Youngstown.
- Please contact the Mahoning County District Board of Health at (330) 270 - 2855 menu selection #2 if you are involved in a pet or human exposure in all other Mahoning County communities.
- Additional information can be obtained from the Ohio Department of Health Zoonotic Disease Program website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/rab1.aspx> or by phone at (614) 752 – 1029 menu selection # 2.
- Additional information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can be accessed via <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/rabiescdc.aspx> .

####