



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Mahoning County**  
**District Board of Health**

**NEWS RELEASE**

<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b>	<b>CONTACT:</b> Mary Helen Smith Director of Environmental Health (330) 270-2855 ext. 134 <a href="mailto:mhsmith@mahoninghealth.org">mhsmith@mahoninghealth.org</a>
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**First Two Raccoons Identified As Positive for Rabies in Mahoning County**

Laboratory reports confirmed that two raccoons found in Boardman Township were positive for the rabies virus variant common to raccoons in the Eastern United States. The first raccoon was found near South Avenue and Western Reserve Road. The second raccoon was found near South Avenue and Boardman Poland Road.

Officials from the local USDA Wildlife Services offices ran preliminary tests on the raccoons that indicated they were positive for rabies. The specimens were subsequently sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for variant typing. Confirmation of the preliminary reports is still pending.

Although there were no known exposures to animals or humans in this case, the Mahoning County District Board of 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 doctor.
- Report any bite incidents to your local health department.

“Residents should be vigilant and not interact with or feed wildlife,” says Mary Helen Smith, director of environmental health for the Mahoning County District Board of Health. “Feed pets indoors and keep trash can lids secure to avoid attracting wildlife into your yard.”

Rabies is a fatal viral disease and a serious public health threat. All mammals, such as raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats, are believed susceptible to the disease. Rabies is most often transmitted through bites and scratches from unvaccinated pets, strays, and wildlife.

50 Westchester Drive  
Youngstown, OH 44515

If you find a suspected sick or dead raccoon, skunk, or fox that is not decayed or involved in a pet or human exposure, please contact your local health department for surveillance purposes:

- If found in the city of Youngstown, please contact the Youngstown City Health District at (330) 743-3333
- If found in all other Mahoning County communities, please contact the Mahoning County District Board of Health at (330) 270-2855 menu selection #2.

More information on rabies can be found on our website at [www.mahoninghealth.org](http://www.mahoninghealth.org).

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