



Lake County General Health District

Painesville, Ohio 44077

Painesville: (440) 350-2543

Cleveland: (440) 918-2543

Madison: (440) 428-4348 Ext. 2543

www.lcghd.org

Frank Kellogg, R.S., M.P.H., Health Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

August 24, 2016

CONTACT: Bert Mechenbier, (440) 350-2543**LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT**

RACCOON RABIES VACCINATION TO BEGIN AUGUST 24, 2016

The Lake County General Health District is cooperating with the United States Department of Agriculture National Rabies Management Program in the annual Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) project to immunize raccoons, skunks and other wild animals against rabies. Due to intensive bait application for the past several years and the absence of rabies locally, the bait zone has been significantly reduced. This year, bait will be distributed only in the eastern part of Lake County from Painesville to communities to the south and the east. Bait distribution by airplane in rural areas will begin on August 24th and weather permitting, be completed within a few days. Ground baiting from vehicles and on foot will occur in more populated areas on August 30th and 31st. 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 wild animals to consume. 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. Use a glove or plastic bag to toss bait that is not leaking into a tree line, and then wash your hands. The Health District requests that you call us at (440) 350-2543 whenever you or your pet comes into contact with bait.

Rabies is a viral disease that affects animals and people. 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.

###

Our Mission: ***Working to prevent disease, promote health, and protect our community***

