

Data for the first six months of 2010 indicate that the number of rabies-infected wild animals in Allegheny County, most particularly raccoons, has again decreased below those recorded in 2001. At least some of this decrease can probably be attributed to the program that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) embarked on eight years ago to vaccinate wild raccoons against rabies. We plan to continue this program by disseminating vaccine-containing bait throughout the county this year and again in 2011.

Two types of baits will be used this year: one in which vaccine contained in a plastic sachet is enclosed in fishmeal pellets and a second in which the plastic sachet is coated with a fish oil scent. The vaccine, when consumed by raccoons, results in their developing antibodies to the rabies virus. *As I may have mentioned to you last year, please note that the baits pose no appreciable risk to humans or pets.*

Health Department employees will apply bait by hand in all municipalities on foot and from vehicles. In a few circumstances, we may ask the Rodent Control Staff from your community for assistance.

On-land baiting is scheduled to begin the week of August 23, 2010 in Allegheny County. Aerial baiting is scheduled to begin August 27, 2010 and may include Allegheny County.

I have enclosed several materials that can be used to inform your citizens about the baiting program. We would appreciate any effort you could make to publicize the baiting in municipal newsletters and publications. I also ask you to inform your *Emergency Management Coordinator* of this endeavor so they will be prepared. If you need further information, please call my office at 412-578-8008 or Sharon Silvestri, Chief, Infectious Diseases, at 412-578-8062. Contact Ms. Silvestri if your municipality is planning an activity such as a Community Day during the baiting periods so that we may avoid placing the baits within the celebration area

We appreciate your continuing cooperation. Through this effort, we hope to reduce the likelihood of a human case of rabies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce W. Dixon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Bruce W. Dixon, M.D., Director

**2010 ANTI-RABIES RACCOON BAITING PROGRAM**

Northern Communities are defined as those north of the Allegheny or Ohio Rivers while Southern Communities are those located south of the Monongahela or Ohio Rivers. Eastern Communities are located between the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers.

**NORTHERN COMMUNITIES**

**SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES**

**EASTERN COMMUNITIES**

Aleppo Twp.	Aspinwall	Baldwin Boro	Baldwin Twp.	Braddock	Braddock Hills
Avalon	Bell Acres	Bethel Park	Brentwood	Chalfant	Churchill
Bellevue	Ben Avon	Bridgeville	Carnegie	East McKeesport	East Pittsburgh
Ben Avon Hghts	Blawnox	Castle Shannon	Clairton	Edgewood	Elizabeth Boro
Brackenridge	Bradford Woods	Collier Twp.	Coraopolis	Elizabeth Twp.	Forest Hills
Cheswick	East Deer Twp.	Crafton	Crescent Twp.	Forward Twp.	Glassport
Edgeworth	Emsworth	Dormont	Dravosburg	Liberty	Lincoln
Etna	Fawn Twp.	Duquesne	Findlay Twp.	McKeesport	Monroeville
Fox Chapel	Franklin Park	Green Tree	Heidelberg	North Braddock	North Versailles Twp.
Frazer Twp.	Glenfield	Homestead	Ingram	Oakmont	Penn Hills
Hampton Twp.	Harmar Twp.	Jefferson Hills	Kennedy Twp.	Pitcairn	Plum
Harrison Twp.	Haysville	McDonald	McKees Rocks	Port Vue	Rankin
Indiana Twp.	Kilbuck Twp.	Moon Twp.	Mt. Lebanon	South Versailles	Swissvale
Leet	Leetsdale	Mt. Oliver	Munhall	Trafford	Turtle Creek
Marshall Twp.	McCandless Twp.	North Fayette Twp.	Oakdale	Verona	Versailles
Millvale	Neville Twp.	Pennsbury Villag	Pleasant Hills	Wall	White Oak
O'Hara Twp.	Ohio	Robinson Twp.	Rosslyn Farms	Wilkins Twp.	Wilkinsburg
Osborne	Pine	Scott Twp.	South Fayette Twp.	Wilmerding	
Reserve Twp.	Richland Twp.	South Park Twp.	Stowe Twp.		
Ross	Sewickley	Thornburg	Upper St. Clair Twp.		
Sewickley Hghts	Sewickley Hills	West Elizabeth	West Homestead		
Shaler Twp.	Sharpsburg	West Mifflin	Whitaker		
Springdale Boro	Springdale Twp.	Whitehall			
Tarentum	West Deer Twp.				
West View					

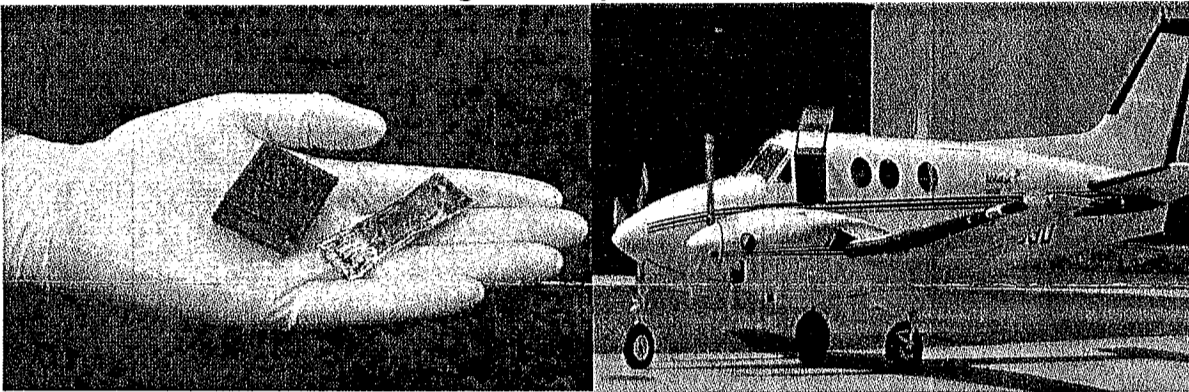
All parts of Pittsburgh will be baited. Emphasis will be placed on baiting those areas along the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, along stream banks and in regions having " Green Spaces " such as the four major parks (Frick, Highland, Riverview, Schenley) and cemeteries.

# NOTICE

## ORAL RABIES VACCINATION AREA

Cooperating Federal, State, and county agencies are conducting an oral raccoon rabies baiting project in western Pennsylvania. A vaccine packet is coated or placed inside a fishmeal block, which is very tasty to raccoons. The baits are dropped from low-flying airplanes or helicopters, or by local teams on foot or in vehicles.

This year's operation will run:  
**August – September, 2010**



### What if I find rabies baits?

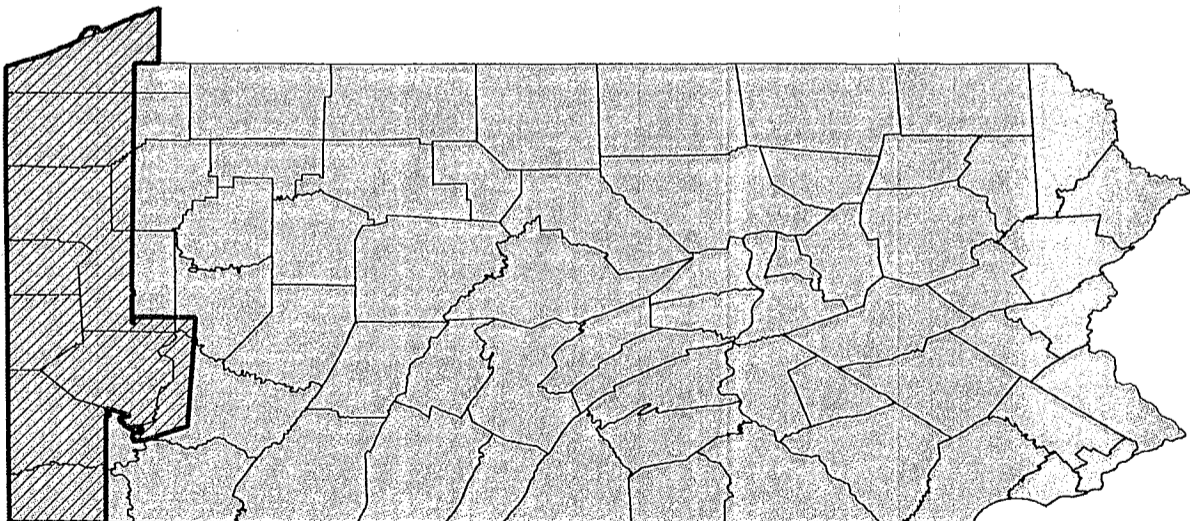
Baits should be left alone – but intact baits can be moved if they are found where children and pets play. Damaged baits should be bagged and disposed in the trash.

- Wear gloves or use a plastic bag when picking up the baits.
- Toss intact baits into a fencerow, woodlot, ditch, or other raccoon habitat areas.
- Wash your hands after any skin contact with a damaged bait.

### What if my pet eats a bait?

- A few baits are not harmful, although eating a lot may cause vomiting or diarrhea.
- Do not risk getting bitten by taking a bait away from your pet.
- Confine your pet for a couple of days, and check the area for more baits.
- If your pet eats a bait, avoid your pet's saliva for 24 hours, and wash skin or wounds that may have been licked.

### Area to be baited:



### For information about the oral rabies baiting program, contact:

USDA Wildlife Services:	1-866-487-3297
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture:	1-717-783-9550
Pennsylvania Department of Health Information Line:	1-877-PA Health
Erie County Department of Health:	1-814-451-6700
Allegheny County Department of Health:	1-412-687-2243

For information concerning accidental contact with baits, call 1-877-722-6725.