

OHIO RABIES UPDATE

MARCH 2010

ZOONOTIC DISEASE PROGRAM
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Animal Rabies Summary 2009

Forty-seven animals from Ohio tested positive for rabies in 2009. Forty-three of those animals were bats (91.5 percent), three were skunks (6.4 percent), and one was a raccoon (2.1 percent). By comparison, 64 animals (55 bats, five raccoons, three skunks and one coyote) were rabid in 2008.

The number of positive bats (43) was slightly lower than the previous five-year average of 49 (range 31-66). All three rabid skunks and the rabid raccoon came from northeast Ohio and were infected with raccoon-rabies variant. This number of rabid raccoons identified in 2009 is below the previous five year average of 21 (range 5-45). The number of rabid skunks is similar to previous years (average 3, range 2-9). For more detail on the status of rabies in Ohio, see the Ohio Rabies 2009 Summary at: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/rab1.aspx>.

Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Program, 2009 Summary

ODH continues as the lead state agency in working with the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS WS) in a program to immunize raccoons against rabies in northeast Ohio. The goal is to prevent further spread of the raccoon-rabies variant throughout the state. A total of 845,300 vaccine-laden baits were distributed over 4,421 square miles in 16 counties last year. The May operation focused on Lake and Geauga counties, where rabies activity is ongoing, and the September operation encompassed an additional eight counties along the Ohio and Pennsylvania border. USDA APHIS WS also conducted a special bait distribution study in Monroe, Noble and Washington counties in September by helicopter. In addition to ORV, USDA APHIS WS staff conducted targeted trap-vaccinate-release operations in and around Lake County. Over 2,700 wild raccoons were immunized. Even with a 33 percent reduction in baits distributed this year, there has been no further spread of raccoon-rabies into new areas in 2009. Overall numbers of rabid animals (non-bat) dropped from nine animals in 2008 to just four in 2009. For the full Ohio report, please see: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dis/zoonoses/rabies/orv/orv1.aspx>.

Rabies Recommendations: What's New and What's Not

ACIP Provisional Recommendations for Prevention of Human Rabies. On March 19, 2010, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that four doses of vaccine are sufficient for rabies post-exposure treatment (PET) in healthy individuals. See <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5902.pdf>. Most CDC rabies materials already reflect the recommendations, but the vaccine labels specifying a PET protocol of five doses of vaccine will not change in the near future. Public health agencies need to be aware of this discrepancy and advise clinicians to use their own clinical judgement when writing PET orders.

Rabies Compendium. The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Rabies Compendium Committee did not publish a 2009 document and will not be releasing the 2010 document for several months. Therefore, the 2008 Rabies Compendium remains the most current. As soon as a new Rabies Compendium is available, the Zoonotic Disease Program will be sure it is circulated to Ohio veterinary and public health professionals.

2009 RABIES HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Forty-seven animals were confirmed with rabies this year, compared to 64 in 2008.
- ◆ Only four animals with raccoon-rabies were detected in Ohio in 2009, compared to nine in 2008.
- ◆ There was no further spread of raccoon-rabies into new areas.
- ◆ Overall, 33% fewer rabies-vaccine baits were distributed in 2009.

**ZOONOTIC DISEASE PROGRAM
BUREAU OF DISEASE INVESTIGATION AND SURVEILLANCE
DIVISION OF PREVENTION**



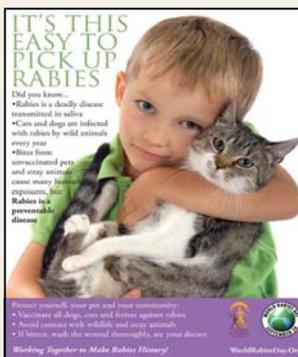
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*THE MISSION OF THE ZOONOTIC DISEASE PROGRAM IS
TO PREVENT AND CONTROL DISEASES TRANSMISSIBLE FROM ANIMALS TO
HUMANS, THROUGH SURVEILLANCE OF ANIMAL RESERVOIRS AND VEC-
TORS, CONSULTATIONS, TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS, AND
EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.*

**ZOONOTIC DISEASE PROGRAM EDUCATION MATERIALS AND HANDOUTS
PLEASE SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

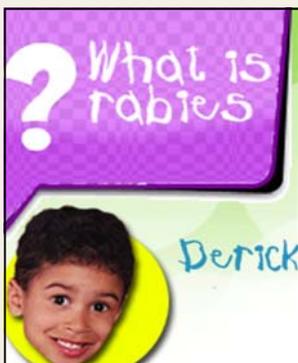
[HTTP://WWW.ODH.OHIO.GOV/ODHPROGRAMS/DIS/ZOONOSSES/ZOOPUB1.ASPX](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ODHPrograms/Dis/Zoonoses/Zoopub1.aspx)



World Rabies Day: It's more than just September 28th

The World Rabies Day education web page is chock full of resources that educators, veterinarians and local health departments can use to educate the public about rabies prevention. Multiple contributors have made their pamphlets, PowerPoint presentations, public service announcements, lesson plans, animal bite safety programs and posters available on this site. Many materials are also available in Spanish. Visit the World Rabies Day Education Bank at: <http://www.worldrabiesday.org/EN/Education-Bank/english.html>

Take steps in your community to “Make Rabies History.”



New CDC website for kids

Did you know that over half of people who die from rabies in the world are under the age of 15? Even adults can learn a thing or two about rabies on this colorful and interactive site. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention totally revamped this site and there is even an on-line test.

Please share this website with teachers and others who reach out to kids at: <http://www.cdc.gov/rabiesandkids/>.



Rabies Encounters for Police Officers (Video)

The Zoonotic Disease Program is very proud of a new 15 minute training video for police officers about how to handle animals and what to tell the public when dealing with animals that may be suspect for rabies. This could also be used to educate other community responders; such as county workers, park personnel and wildlife officials. Even hunter groups may find this valuable. Knowing what to do and what to tell the public when dealing with a wild or domestic animal that must be euthanized might prevent someone from either unnecessarily becoming exposed, or having to begin an expensive rabies post-exposure treatment. The video can be viewed on the OhioTRAINS web site. See: <https://oh.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>. You can also order a DVD free of charge by calling the Zoonotic Disease Program.