

# ORAL RABIES VACCINATION AREA

## NOTICE

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. The vaccine can NOT cause rabies.

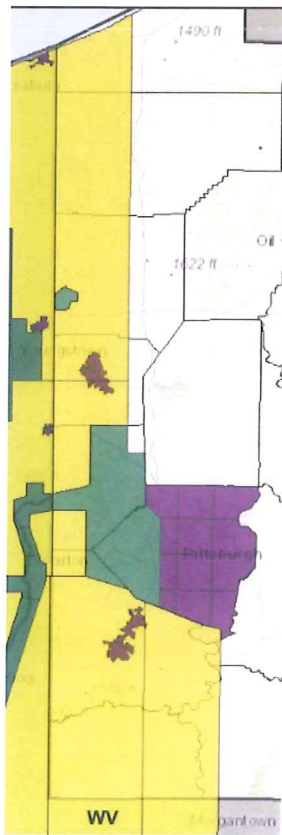
This year's operation will run:

**August – September 2019**



### 2019 ORV Zones by Method

- Fixed Wing
- Ground
- Rotary Wing



### 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 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.

### 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: 1-412-350-4046

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



June 12, 2019

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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The USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services, National Rabies Management Program (NRMP) will be conducting an Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program for raccoons in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The ORV project will include the use of fixed wing-aircraft and helicopters to distribute baits. The fixed-wing distribution will occur over mostly rural areas while the helicopter distribution will occur over suburban/urban areas.



The NRMP will be utilizing agency-owned helicopters to distribute baits around the Greater Pittsburgh Area. The helicopters are Hughes OH-6 Cayuse helicopters with the following tail numbers: N518Y, N6186U, and N58479. The aircraft are red with black stripes along the body. The helicopters will be flying terrain at approximately 200 feet above ground level while distributing the ORV baits. The

helicopter ORV operations will be based from the Beaver County Airport (BVI), Pennsylvania. The anticipated dates of the helicopter operations are August 18 – 21, 2019.



The NRMP has contracted with Dynamic Aviation for the use of five King Air A90 aircraft to distribute the ORV. The aircraft are white with thin red and blue stripes along the body of the aircraft. As of the date of this letter, the following tail numbers have been tasked for this operation: N7199H, N72L, N75N, N75V and N75Z. The aircraft will be flying VFR at approximately 500 feet above ground level while distributing

the ORV baits. The fixed-wing operations will be based from Youngstown Elser Metro Airport (4G4), Ohio, for areas north of Pittsburgh, and from Upshur County Airport (W22), West Virginia, for areas south of Pittsburgh. The anticipated dates of the operation are from August 23 – September 10, 2019. These dates could change due to weather.

NRMP and WS pilots will coordinate all flight plans with Pittsburgh International Airport, Beaver Valley Airport, and the FAA prior to starting the project. Flight operations will occur daily from sunrise until sunset. The pilots will be in constant communication with Pittsburgh Air Traffic Control as well as other emergency agencies during this time.

If there are any questions regarding any of the ORV operations please contact Rabies Biologist Tim Linder at (office) 724-238-7320 or (cell) 724-672-8686.