



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

# NEWS RELEASE



<b>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE</b> <b>DATE: June 2, 2015</b>	<b>Contact:</b> Ryan Tekac
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## First Raccoon Identified As Positive for Rabies in Mahoning County

An Ohio Department of Health Laboratory report has confirmed that a raccoon located in Boardman Township has tested positive for the rabies virus variant common to raccoons in the Eastern United States. The raccoon was found in central Boardman due to a reported exposure between the raccoon and a domestic canine. The canine was verified as current on the rabies vaccination and also received a booster vaccination, but is being quarantined for 45 days for precautionary measures.

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 physician.
- Report any bite incidents to your local health department.

“Residents should be vigilant and not interact with or feed wildlife,” says Ryan Tekac, Director of Environmental Health for the Mahoning County District Board of Health. “Pets should be fed indoors and trash can lids secured to avoid attracting wildlife onto your property.”

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.

It is important to investigate any exposure of a domestic animal to a potentially rabid animal. If the potential rabid animal is deceased or can be euthanized by local authorities without cranial damage, then the local board of health can retrieve the deceased animal and submit it for testing.

If you find a suspected sick or dead raccoon, skunk, or fox that is not decayed or displays signs of cranial damage, please contact your local health department for surveillance purposes:



50 Westchester Drive, Youngstown, Ohio 44515  
Phone: 330-270-2855 or Toll-Free: 1-800-873-MCHD  
[www.mahoninghealth.org](http://www.mahoninghealth.org)



- 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  
<http://www.mahoninghealth.org/health/protect-your-family-from-rabies-cdc-features/>.

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