



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Mahoning County
District Board of Health**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE	CONTACT: Patt Sweeney Health Commissioner (330) 270-2855 ext. 144 psweeney@mahoninghealth.org
	DATE: May 16, 2013

Second Raccoon Identified As Positive for Rabies in Mahoning County

Laboratory reports confirmed that a raccoon found in Boardman Township was positive for the rabies virus variant common to raccoons in the Eastern United States. The raccoon was found in the vicinity of Cherry Hill Place. This is the second positive raccoon in Mahoning County this season.

Officials from the local USDA Wildlife Services offices ran a preliminary test on the raccoon that indicated it was positive for rabies. The specimen was subsequently sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for variant typing, which confirmed the preliminary report.

Although there were no known exposures to animals or humans in this case, the Mahoning County District Board of Health is reminding residents to protect themselves from the ever-present threat of rabies by following these precautions:

- Do not feed, touch or adopt wild animals and be cautious around stray cats and dogs.
- Teach children to leave wildlife alone and be sure that your child knows to tell you if an animal bites or scratches them.
- Have your pet cats, dogs, and ferrets vaccinated for rabies and keep their vaccinations current.
- Keep trash can lids secure. Open containers can attract wildlife.
- Feed pets indoors. Never leave food outdoors that can attract wildlife.
- Report any bite incidents to your local health department and call your doctor for medical advice.

“Residents should be vigilant and not interact with or feed wildlife” says Mary Helen Smith, director of environmental health. “All pet food should be kept indoors to prevent attracting raccoons or skunks into your yard.”

Rabies is a fatal viral zoonosis and a serious public health threat. All mammals, such as raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats, are believed susceptible to the disease. Rabies is transmitted when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from saliva.

50 Westchester Drive
Youngstown, OH 44515

If you find a dead raccoon, skunk, or fox that is not decayed or involved in a pet or human exposure, please contact your local health department for surveillance purposes:

- 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.

Information on our spring Rabies Vaccination Clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets is listed below. More information on rabies or a copy of the Rabies Vaccination Clinic flyer can be found on our website at www.mahoninghealth.org.

- Date: Saturday, May 18, 2013
- Place: Berlin Township Fire Station
15801 West Akron-Carfield Road, Berlin Center, OH 44401
- Time : 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM, no appointment necessary
- Cost \$6.00 per shot

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