



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 17, 2013

Third Raccoon Identified As Positive for Rabies in Mahoning County

Laboratory reports confirmed that a raccoon found in Struthers City was positive for rabies. The variant (strain) type is pending confirmation. The raccoon was found in the vicinity of Omar Street. This is the third positive raccoon in Mahoning County this season.

There is known direct human contact/exposure with this animal.

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.

“Do not touch, handle or play with wildlife. Although they may appear to be cute, friendly animals, wildlife should be considered dangerous” says Patt Sweeney Mahoning County health commissioner. “To minimize attracting wildlife to your property, remember to keep all pet food inside or in closed containers.”

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.

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.

50 Westchester Drive
Youngstown, OH 44515

- 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-Canfield Road, Berlin Center, OH 44401
- Time : 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM, no appointment necessary
- Cost \$6.00 per shot

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50 Westchester Drive
Youngstown, OH 44515