Stark County Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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From: Kirk Norris, Health Commissioner

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Second Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) Drop Scheduled

Stark County, Ohio –A third raccoon collected in Washington township (Stark County) has been tested and confirmed positive with raccoon rabies variant (RRV) by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention in July. This past March an initial raccoon tested positive for rabies; later in April, a second raccoon tested positive. The positive cases prompted massive surveillance efforts undertaken by USDA Wildlife Services (WS) in April and May, to determine the limit of the western expansion of RRV into Stark County. The surveillance boundary was an approximate line from Louisville to Waynesburg. Consequently, USDA performed an early oral rabies vaccine (ORV) bait drop during the week of May 22 within this area.

Currently, 1085 specimens have been tested for rabies and three have tested positive.

USDA will conduct their normally scheduled ORV bait drop from **August 18th through September 15th**. The oral bait will be dropped from fixed-wing aircrafts and helicopters. The area to be baited within Stark County includes: line from Louisville to Waynesburg across to the eastern border of Stark County. Other counties in the bait drop area include: Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, Tuscarawas, and Trumbull counties.

If you have any questions regarding the ORV bait drop please feel free to contact the Stark County Health Department at 330-493-9904 ext. 202.

For additional information regarding rabies please go to:

https://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/bid/zdp/diseases/rabies.aspx http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/public-health/environmental-health/animal-bites-rabies

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