

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

July 26, 2023

Dear Municipal Manager:

For over 20 years, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services (USDA) to distribute oral rabies vaccine for raccoons throughout Allegheny County. This year, staff from both organizations will be distributing vaccine-containing baits from **July 31 to September 1** across Allegheny County.

The baits will be delivered both by hand from ground vehicles and by aircraft, including helicopter and fixed wing airplanes. The aircraft will be flying low over residential areas and at times, residents may see aircraft moving slowly over the same area repeatedly within a short period of time. Hand baiting will occur from **July 31 to August 4**.

A vaccine is a blister packet is coated in fishmeal or a vanilla flavored, waxy substance. The scent attracts the raccoons who eat the bait and vaccine, resulting in the development of antibodies to the rabies virus. The vaccine cannot cause rabies.

The risk of adverse effects to humans and animals due to exposure to the vaccine is minimal, but we urge the public to avoid contact with the bait if possible. If a stray bait must be moved, it should be picked up using rubber or latex gloves, or a shovel. You may toss intact baits into a fencerow, woodlot, ditch, or other raccoon habitat areas.

We are also asking the public to keep their dogs on a leash, indoors, or confined to their property as much as possible during baiting and the week after.

If you need further information, please contact our office via email Jamie.Sokol@AlleghenyCounty.US or at 412-350-4046. **For information concerning accidental contact with baits, please call 1-888-461-0223.**

We appreciate your continuing cooperation and thank you in advance for helping us to spread the word about this initiative. Through this effort, we hope to reduce the likelihood of a human case of rabies in Allegheny County and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

Jamie Sokol
Operations Manager



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HOUSING & COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM**
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