

News Article
Oral Rabies Vaccination Project underway
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Beginning on October 2 – October 14 the USDA wildlife Service and other Cooperating Agencies will be distributing, oral rabies vaccination (ORV), vaccine that orally vaccinates wild raccoons against rabies. A vaccine packet is placed inside a fishmeal block, which is very tasty to raccoons. The baits are drooped from low-flying airplanes, or by local teams on foot or in vehicles.

The GAT Project includes counties in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee and will take place simultaneously throughout the area. This is an effort to vaccinate the raccoon population and reduce the occurrence of rabies in this area. Georgia's target area for 2007 will include all of Dade, a small portion of Chattooga and large portions of Walker and Catoosa. The development of an effective barrier usually requires several years of annual bait distributions and increased monitoring and surveillance.

What if I find a rabies bait?

Baits should be left alone- but intact baits can be moved if they are found where children and pets play. Damaged baits should be bagged, and disposed in the trash.

- Wear gloves or use a paper towel when picking up bait.
- Toss intact bait into a fencerow, woodlot, ditch or other raccoon habitat areas.
- Wash your hands after any skin contact with damaged bait.

What if my pet eats a bait?

- A few baits are not harmful, although eating a lot may cause vomiting or diarrhea.
- Do not risk getting bitten by taking a bait away from your pet.
- Confine your pet for a couple of days, and check the area for more baits.

If you have questions about ORV or a bait you have found? Call Wildlife Services at 1-706-546-5637 or the Georgia Division of Public Health at 1-706-295-6651