

NOTICE



RABIES MANAGEMENT AREA

The Wildlife Services (WS) program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working to protect people and pets from the threat of rabies in your area. WS is distributing an oral rabies vaccination (ORV) bait to vaccinate raccoons, gray foxes, and coyotes and help stop the further spread of rabies. ORV baits are about the size of a matchbox and are coated with fishmeal flavoring. ORV baits can be distributed by airplane, helicopter, or car.

If you find ORV baits, leave them alone, unless they are where children or pets play. To move ORV baits safely, you should:

- Wear gloves or use a paper towel or plastic bag when picking up the baits.
- Toss intact baits into a wooded area or other raccoon habitat.
- Bag and dispose of any damaged baits in the trash.
- Take precautions by practicing proper hygiene—wash with soap and water any skin or wounds that may have come into contact with ORV baits, especially if the bait was damaged.

However, **if your pet eats an ORV bait, don't panic!** Pets consuming a few baits is not harmful, although eating a large number of ORV baits may cause an upset stomach. Do not risk being bitten or being exposed to the vaccine by taking a bait away from your pet. Simply check the area where the ORV bait was found and relocate any remaining baits to a wooded area. Always notify your doctor or local health department if you are bitten by a pet or wild animal.

If you have questions about ORV baits or the National Rabies Management Program, please call APHIS Wildlife Services at 1-866-4-USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297). You can find more information about this program by visiting the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider and employer.