



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

Annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Project Begins September 2, 2008

For the eleventh year in Anne Arundel County, the Department of Health will conduct the raccoon Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Project. Beginning Tuesday, September 2, baits will be placed throughout Anne Arundel County to vaccinate raccoons against rabies. The project should be completed by the end of September, weather permitting.

The Baits...

- Contain liquid rabies vaccine. A raccoon is immunized when it bites into the bait.
- Cannot cause rabies and are not harmful to raccoons, pets or other animals.
- Protect people and pets. Raccoons are the main source of rabies in Anne Arundel County.
- Will be placed in neighborhoods by teams of trained Department of Health staff and volunteers. Teams will wear orange vests and travel in marked County vehicles.
- Will be dropped from a County Police helicopter in less-populated areas.
- Come in two styles—one looks like a light brown ketchup packet, and the other looks like a small brown brick.
- Are marked with a toll free phone number. Anyone who comes in contact with the bait or has a pet that finds the bait is asked to call the phone number on the bait or 410-222-7168.
- Have been used in many other parts of the United States and Europe without serious human health effects. It is recommended that persons who are younger than 18 years old, pregnant or immune compromised avoid handling the bait.

Even though the bait and vaccine pose a minimal risk to people and pets, pet owners are asked to keep their pets confined or on a leash during the baiting and for two weeks thereafter.

Homeowners who see raccoons on their property may request to have the property baited by calling the Department of Health at **410-222-7168** before August 26. For more information about the ORV Project, visit **www.aahealth.org**.

The ORV Project receives support from the Anne Arundel County Police Department and Wildlife Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.