



# Macon County Public Health

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## *Press Release*

### **IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN – RABIES VACCINE BAIT DROP SCHEDULED TO BEGIN**

NEWS RELEASE Jimmy Villiard

For Immediate Release:

September 27, 2023

MACON COUNTY – As it has done in previous years, the United States Department of Agriculture

(USDA) National Rabies Management Program is distributing rabies vaccine to wildlife populations. . North Carolina baiting activities from a helicopter in urban areas will begin October 9, 2023 in four cities (Asheville, Burnsville, Mars Hill, and Waynesville). Raboral V-RG coated sachets and fishmeal polymers will be aerially and hand distributed via fixed-wing aircraft and ground vehicles in the following counties: Ashe, Alleghany, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Macon, Clay, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Transylvania, Jackson, Swain, Graham, Cherokee and Wilkes October 3-14, 2023. The Oral rabies vaccine which are small green packets the size of a quarter coin, will be dropped from aircraft and hand distributed in Macon County in and around October 5<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>. The program has helped stop the spread of raccoon rabies into native raccoon, fox, and coyote populations beyond the Appalachian Mountains and across the western United States. Ravoral is safe for most animals who ingest it, including dogs.



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will distribute more than one million doses from northern Alabama to southwest Virginia. Residents who

**For Immediate Release – January 27, 2022**

may encounter wildlife vaccine packets and have questions can call the Rabies Information Line at 1-866-4-USDA-WS (1-866-487-3297).

### **Tips for Public Encountering Baits or Bait Contact**

- Do NOT disturb vaccine packets. Most packets are eaten within four days; almost all baits will be gone within a week.
  - Undigested packets will harmlessly dissolve and exposed vaccine will become inactivated.
  - If you must move a vaccine packet, wear gloves or use a plastic bag or paper towel to pick it up.
  - Place any damaged baits in the trash; throw intact baits into a wooded area or other raccoon/wildlife habitat.
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- Residents should WASH HANDS IMMEDIATELY if they come into direct contact with the vaccine or packets, then call 1-866-487-3297.