



In Re: Declaring Rabies a Disease that Warrants Vaccination Pursuant to Section 3701.14 of the Ohio Revised Code

Director's Journal Entry

I, Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, declare rabies to be a significant and continuing health risk in Ashtabula, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Jefferson, Lake, Mahoning, Monroe, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Tuscarawas, and Washington counties. Accordingly, I reaffirm my predecessors' Journal Entries ordering the initiation of a population-based oral rabies vaccination program (hereafter "baiting") for wild raccoons within the named counties. The time, place, and manner of the baiting will be implemented as determined necessary under my authority. The purpose of such action is to control and suppress rabies as well as protect the people against diseases of lower animals pursuant to section 3701.14 of the Ohio Revised Code.

By this Journal Entry, I reauthorize the Ohio Department of Health's continuing vaccination of the wild raccoon population, by baiting with the assistance of local departments of health and other federal, state, and local authority assets. The bait with vaccine shall be distributed in areas accessible to and/or proximate to raccoon habitats. Additionally, pursuant to O.R.C. 3701.06, I authorize the local health departments and the United States Department of Agriculture to, without fee or hindrance, enter, examine, and distribute baits with vaccine on all grounds and places in furtherance of this order.

Because unvaccinated dogs and cats pose a significant health risk in exposing the public to rabies, I hereby order all dogs and cats older than sixteen weeks to be vaccinated with a rabies vaccine according to the product label in the above-named counties. Newly acquired dogs and cats, older than sixteen weeks of age, must be current on rabies vaccination or be vaccinated within one month of acquisition. Rabies vaccinations must be performed by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The State Public Health Veterinarian may grant an exemption to the requirement for rabies vaccination in the above-named counties if vaccination would likely endanger the animal's life due to a previously diagnosed disease or other previously documented medical considerations as documented by a licensed veterinarian.

This Journal Entry shall be effective immediately upon execution and shall remain in full force and effect until further notice.

October 28, 2024

Date

Bruce Vanderhoff, M.D., MBA by L.D.H.

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA
Director of Health

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the Journal Entry of the Director of the Ohio Department of Health.

10-29-2024

Date

Brenda M. Adams

Custodian of the Director's Journals
Ohio Department of Health