



Macon County  
Public Health

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## Public Service Announcement

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to Conduct Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Bait Drop in North Carolina

**March 19, 2025** – The United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) Wildlife Services will conduct its annual Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) program in North Carolina to help control the spread of rabies in wildlife. The 2025 ORV baiting activities will occur from **April 1-20, 2025**, across multiple counties, with specific distribution methods based on location.

#### ORV Baiting Schedule and Methods:

- **Fixed-Wing Aircraft:** Raboral V-RG coated sachets will be distributed in rural areas via aircraft between **April 1-20, 2025** in **Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Macon, Clay, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Transylvania, Jackson, Swain, Graham, Cherokee, and Watauga counties**.
- **Helicopter Distribution:** Raboral V-RG fishmeal polymer baits will be dropped in urban areas of **Asheville, Burnsville, Mars Hill, and Waynesville** between **April 9-11, 2025**.
- **Ground Distribution:** Hand baiting via ground vehicles will take place in **Asheville city limits** from **April 3-8, 2025**.

These baits contain an oral rabies vaccine designed to immunize raccoons and other wildlife against rabies, helping to reduce the risk of transmission to domestic animals and humans.

#### Important Public Information:

- The vaccine baits are safe for pets and wildlife; however, pet owners should avoid contact with the baits if possible.
- If a pet eats a bait, there is no cause for concern, but excessive consumption should be avoided.
- If a bait is found, leave it undisturbed. If necessary, it can be moved to a wooded area using gloves or a plastic bag.

The ORV program is an essential part of rabies control efforts to protect public health and prevent the spread of the disease. Community members with questions, comments, or concerns about the program can contact **Jennifer Germain** at **828-349-2084**.

For more information, please visit [maconnc.org](http://maconnc.org).