

Bait Drop Frequently Asked Questions

Is the vaccine harmful?

The vaccine is not harmful to wild animals or pets. Although the exposure risk to humans is very slight, the following information is important:

- Be aware of what the bait looks like.
- Encourage children to leave the baits alone.
- Keep dogs and cats inside or on leashes at least a week after your area was baited.
- Do not attempt to take bait away from your pet; you may be bitten.
- If you touch the bait or the liquid vaccine inside the bait (a red fluid), thoroughly wash your hands or exposed skin with soap and water.

Are gloves required to handle the bait, or will I be harmed if I handle the intact bait without gloves?

It is not harmful to touch intact bait; however, the bait does have a strong odor, so you might prefer to wear gloves when handling it. A paper towel may also be used. Wash your hands thoroughly after any direct contact with the bait.

What if I find bait near my home?

Leave it alone, or if it is intact and out in the open, toss it into brushy or forested cover.

What if my dog or cat eats bait?

The bait is not harmful to pets or livestock. Do not try to take the bait from an animal. On occasion, when several baits were consumed by a dog or cat, an upset stomach has been reported.

What if my child eats or has contact with bait?

The bait has a strong fish odor and is usually unappealing to children. It is not possible to get rabies from the vaccine. People with certain medical conditions, such as an immunodeficiency problem, may be prone to a local infection from vaccinia if the vaccine (red liquid) gets into an open wound. Using soap and water to wash any skin area exposed to the vaccine can prevent this. In the unlikely event that a child bites the bait or the actual vaccine packet, contact the West Virginia Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 1-800-423-1271.

If my child or pet eats the vaccine, will either of them get rabies?

No. It is not possible to get rabies from the vaccine. The vaccine does not contain the rabies virus, only a single gene from that virus.

Can this vaccine be used to vaccinate my dog or cat against rabies?

No. Vaccination of pets should be done by veterinarians in accordance with state and local laws. Pet vaccination is necessary to protect your pet against rabies.

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