

Ministry drops rabies vaccine baits near town

GRAEME FRISQUE
gfrisque@metroland.com



Photo courtesy of WGPB

With the province monitoring an outbreak spreading across Ontario, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) reports the MNRF is targeting parts of Dufferin and Wellington counties as part of its rabies vaccine baiting program.

"While it's unlikely that people will come across a vaccine packet, I do ask that these be left in place for the wildlife to consume."

The bait packs are called the Ultra-lite, contain ON-RAB (the vaccine) and appear as in the attached photo.

"The bait formula coats the blister pack containing the vaccine. This formula consists of vegetable-based fats, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil, artificial marshmallow flavour and dark-

green food grade fat-soluble dye," writes the ministry on its website.

The ministry adds that while it's unlikely people or pets will come in contact with the baits, which aren't considered harmful to either, it suggests seeing a doctor or veterinarian for precautionary reasons should you or your pet happen upon one and touch it.

Visit ontario.ca/document/rabies-vaccine-bait-identification for more information.

The Town of Halton Hills is advising residents that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has dropped rabies vaccine baits in areas in and around town.

The program is aimed at reducing rabies in the province's fox and raccoon populations and specifically targets those strains.

According to a release sent by the town on July 28, the ministry dropped the baits this week, primarily in areas south and west of Halton Hills. While not usually harmful to humans, the town and ministry are advising residents to leave the small packets - slightly bigger than a loonie - alone if found.

"This a provincial program to support the overall goal of eradicating rabies," said Mayor Rick Bonnette.

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