



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Wildlife Services

730 Yokum Street  
Elkin, WV 26372  
(304) 636-1785  
(304) 636-5397 (fax)

## Subject: Rabies Surveillance in West Virginia

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) conducts wildlife rabies surveillance in West Virginia. Wildlife Services is leading a national effort to vaccinate certain species of wildlife against rabies, specifically focusing on raccoons in WV. Our service efforts are conducted throughout West Virginia with a special interest in areas to the west of and in the oral rabies vaccination (ORV) zone (see attached map). Surveillance is a critical part of our rabies management program. USDA WS cooperates with West Virginia Division of Natural Resources personnel, WVDHHR personnel, county health departments, animal control officers, veterinarians, and others to assist us in locating wild animals that potentially could have rabies.

Our surveillance methods include collecting road kill and sick or suspiciously acting animals that have had no contact with humans or domestic animals. All wild animals involved in potential or actual rabies exposures with humans or domestic animals are a public health concern and should be immediately submitted to the Health Department for testing.

For those who are interested in cooperating with USDA Wildlife Services, please review the attached flow chart to determine what action to take when you find a sample. If it is determined that the sample or the suspicious animal meets the criteria, please call the USDA WS state office in Elkins, WV at 304-636-1785. After the message is received, WS will coordinate with field employees located throughout the state to retrieve the samples.



*Safeguarding American Agriculture*

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs  
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Federal Relay Service  
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)  
1-800-877-8339

## USDA Wildlife Services Algorithm for Rabies Enhanced Surveillance

### Did an exposure to rabies occur?

**Bite:** An animal's teeth penetrated the skin of the person/pet.

**Non-bite:** An animal's saliva or neural tissue made contact with the person/pet's mucous membranes or broken skin.

**Unrecognized (bats only):** Bat made direct contact with the person/pet, was found in a bedroom when the person was sleeping, or was found in a room with a child or other person unable to communicate potential exposure.

YES

**Contact your Local Health Department for guidance and testing WITHIN 24 HOURS**  
**OR**

**Office of Epidemiology Emergency Contact:**  
(800) 423-1271  
350 Capital St., Room 125, Charleston, WV

NO

### Is the animal in question a wild species?

Raccoons, skunks, foxes, bobcats, and coyotes are high priority!

NO

Contact your local Animal Control Official

YES

**Does the animal appear to be sick or acting strange (lethargic, aggressive, walking in circles, staggering, confused, or drunk-like)?**

NO

Contact local DNR officials who will be able to provide a list of licensed Wildlife Damage Control Agents.

YES

**Alive:** Animal will need to be euthanized  
**DO NOT SHOOT ANIMAL IN THE HEAD!**

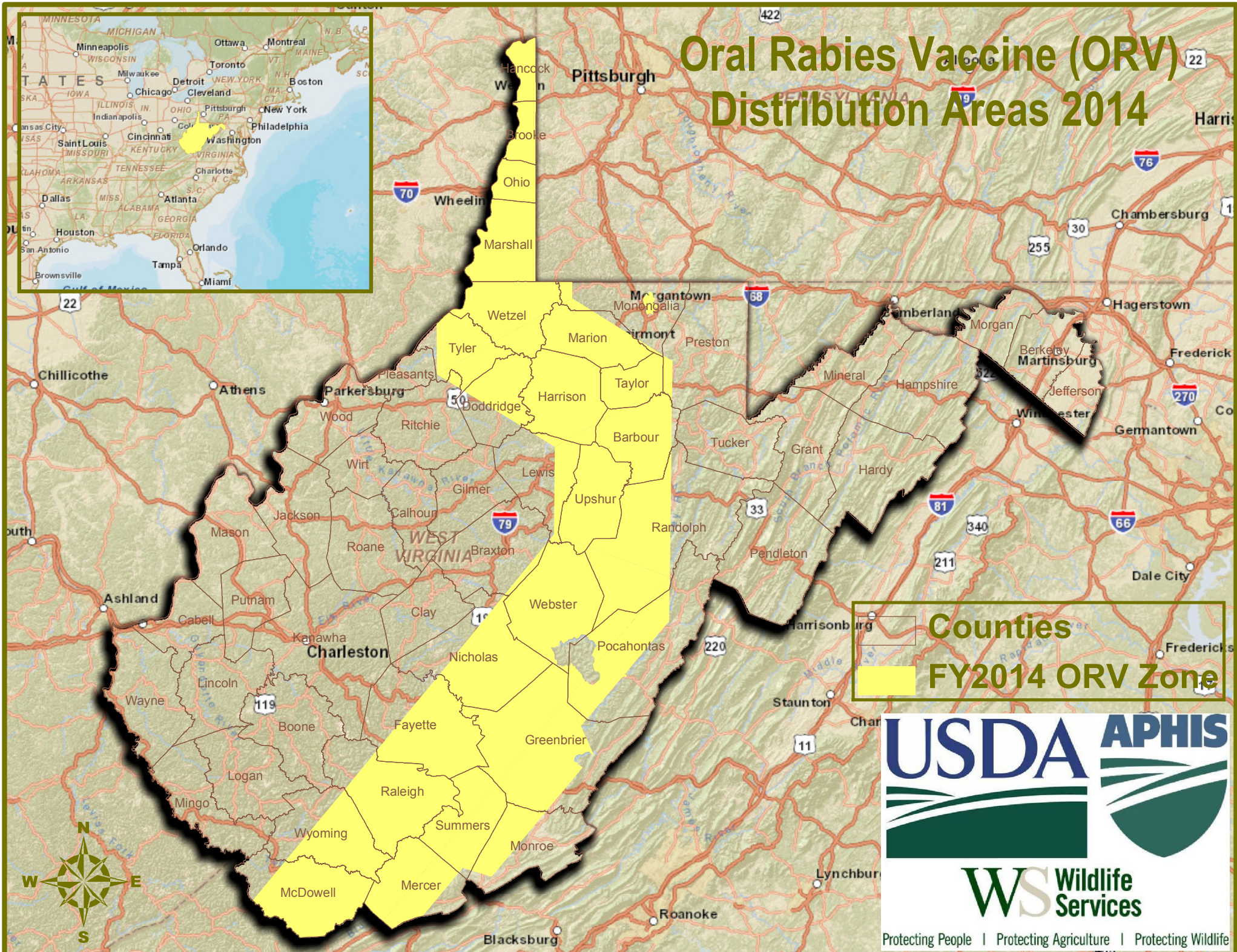
**Dead:** Arrange for collection and transport to WS state office for testing. Record contact information and animal collection information (Date and Location/GPS coordinates)

**Sample  
Preservation**

The sample should be collected as soon as possible! If the sample cannot be frozen, then it needs to be collected within 1-3 days. Additionally, please keep the sample cool, either by placing it in the shade or storing it in a cooler.



# Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) Distribution Areas 2014



**USDA APHIS**

**Wildlife Services**

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