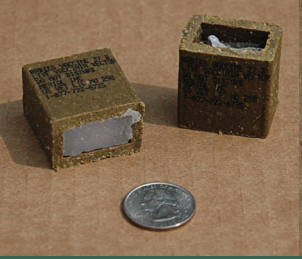

Have you seen these?

These are oral rabies vaccination baits. They are being distributed in your area by fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and ground personnel to vaccinate raccoons against the virus that causes rabies. The vaccine in these baits cannot cause rabies and has been shown to be safe in more than 60 different species of animals, including cats and dogs.

If you find a bait, please leave it alone unless it is on your lawn, driveway, or some other area not likely to attract a raccoon. While wearing a glove or other protective covering (e.g., plastic bag, paper towel), you can move the bait to an area of thicker cover, where a raccoon will be more likely to find it.

If you should pick up a bait without wearing a glove, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. Also, do not handle partially eaten or damaged baits with bare hands. Damaged baits should be placed in a bag and disposed of with normal trash. Do not attempt to remove a bait from a pet's mouth (especially a dog's mouth). Doing that might cause you to be bitten.

If you have any questions, please visit the National Rabies Management Program Web site at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies/index.html or call the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services toll-free number: **1–866–4–USDA–WS**.

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If you see a wild animal:

- Stay away and keep children away.
- Keep pets indoors.

If you are bitten by an animal, domestic or wild:

- Immediately wash the wound with lots of soap and running water.
- Call your doctor or local health department.
- If it's a domestic animal, get the name and address of the animal's owner.
- If it's a wild animal, contact a professional trapper to confine the animal. It's best not to try to trap the animal yourself to prevent further injuries.
- If the animal is dead and needs to be picked up for testing, wear gloves or use a shovel to place the carcass into a heavy plastic bag and put it in a cold place away from people and other animals.

To prevent wildlife encounters:

- Don't feed, touch, or adopt wild animals or stray dogs or cats.
- Vaccinate your dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies.
- Keep garbage secure in an enclosed trashcan.
- Feed pets indoors or immediately remove all food when they are done eating outdoors.
- Teach children to appreciate wildlife from a distance.

Photo credits: The raccoon image was taken by APHIS photographer R. Anson Eaglin. The shots of the sachets and polymer baits were taken by Wildlife Services employee John Forbes.