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## The effect of high density oral rabies vaccine baiting on rabies virus neutralizing antibody response in raccoons (*Procyon lotor*)

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## EFFECT OF HIGH-DENSITY ORAL RABIES VACCINE BAITING ON RABIES VIRUS NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODY RESPONSE IN RACCOONS (*PROCYON LOTOR*)

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**ABSTRACT:** From 2014 to 2016, we examined the effect of distributing oral rabies vaccine baits at high density (150 baits/km<sup>2</sup>) in an area of Virginia, US that was naïve to oral rabies vaccination prior to the study. We also compared the effect of baiting at high density in a naïve area to baiting at standard density (75 baits/km<sup>2</sup>) in an area that had been baited annually for 12 yr. Our results suggested that rabies virus seroconversion in raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) gradually increased each year under the high-density bait treatment. However, we did not detect a difference in seroconversion between bait density treatments. Virginia opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*) were abundant in the study area and were a potentially important nontarget species that competed for oral rabies vaccine baits, but the ratio of opossums to raccoons in this study did not affect rabies virus neutralizing antibody response of the raccoon populations.

**Key words:** Bait density, oral rabies vaccination, *Procyon lotor*, rabies, rabies virus neutralizing antibodies, raccoon.

### INTRODUCTION

Raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) are native mammals that are ubiquitous throughout the continental US (Winkler and Jenkins 1991) and are highly adaptable to a variety of habitats and food resources (Root et al. 2009). Raccoon densities are often higher in urban and suburban areas due to the availability of anthropogenic food sources and denning sites, which inevitably results in increased interaction and conflict with humans and pets (Hoffmann and Gottschang 1977). Although raccoon conflicts are most often related to trash disturbance and denning in attics and chimneys, the transmission of zoonotic pathogens, specifically rabies virus (RABV), is of particular concern (Bigler et al. 1975) due to its high case-fatality rate (Hemachudha et al. 2002).

Mesocarnivores, including raccoons, serve as reservoirs for RABV, which is a widely distributed lyssavirus that causes fatal encephalitis in infected mammals (Rupprecht et al.

2002). A raccoon rabies epizootic emerged following translocation of rabid raccoons from Florida to the border of Virginia and West Virginia in the 1970s for a restocking program (Nettles et al. 1979; Moore 1999) and subsequently spread northward and southward along the eastern US (Guerra et al. 2003). Since 1997, efforts have been made to limit the geographic extent of the raccoon RABV variant by distributing oral rabies vaccine baits along the Appalachian Mountains in an attempt to prevent westward expansion of the virus (Ramey et al. 2008), with the ultimate goal of eliminating the variant (Slate et al. 2005).

Distribution of oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits at the appropriate density to ensure adequate seroconversion and immunity in raccoons is paramount to a successful strategy to stop RABV circulation. Our primary objective in this study was to examine the impact of baiting at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> over 3 yr on rabies virus neutralizing antibody

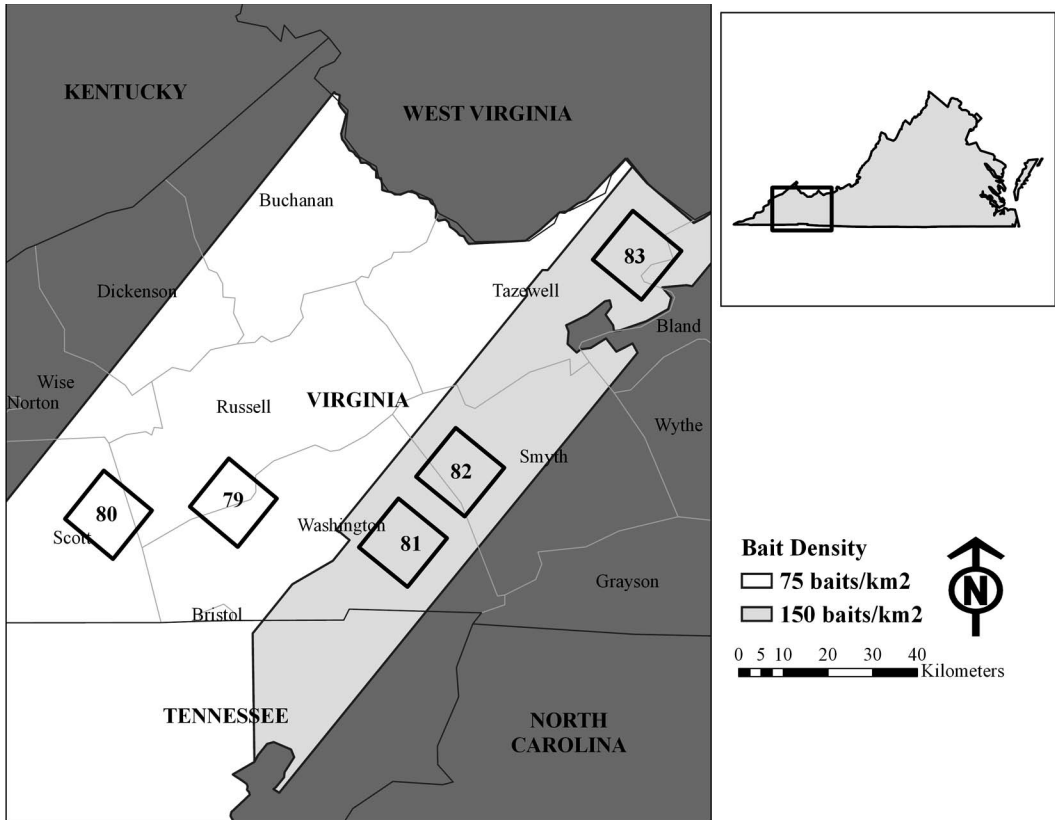


FIGURE 1. Study cells and oral rabies vaccination (ORV) zones in Virginia, USA where rabies vaccine baits were distributed at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> and 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> from 2014–16. Cells 79–80 were treated with ORV at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> and cells 81–83 were treated with ORV at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> during the study.

(RVNA) seroconversion rates. A secondary objective was to evaluate the effect of distributing ORV baits at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> in an area that had been baited for 12 yr prior compared to 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> in a naïve area. Both objectives were achieved by estimating the RVNA response in raccoons before and after ORV distribution as an index to population immunity.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Study area and design

The study site was located in the western region of Virginia in Scott, Russell, Washington, Smyth, and Tazewell counties (Fig. 1) and included both naïve and previously baited areas. The design included five, 127-km<sup>2</sup> cells separated by at least a 4.8-km buffer from adjacent cells, and from the edge of the larger ORV zone where all cells were

located, to reduce the possibility that raccoons immigrated or emigrated from outside the study cells (Fig. 1). Two cells located within the ORV zone had been baited annually at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> (standard bait density), with 750 m flight-line spacing since 2002, and were sampled to take advantage of an ongoing management activity (cells 79–80; Fig. 1). Three additional cells were established in an ORV-naïve area and baited annually at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> with 375 m between parallel flight lines during aerial distribution of baits (cells 81–83; Fig. 1). The flight-line spacing was adjusted between treatments to achieve the desired bait densities.

### Oral rabies vaccine bait and bait distribution

Baits consisted of a plastic sachet containing 1.8 mL of vaccinia-rabies glycoprotein (V-RG) recombinant vaccine (RABORAL V-RG®, Merial, Inc., Duluth, Georgia, USA) coated with wax and fishmeal crumbles (coated sachets) or encased in a solid square fishmeal block (Maki et al. 2017).

There was no biomarker present in the baits. Coated sachets were distributed in October each year from 2014 to 2016 by fixed-wing aircraft in the majority of the ORV zone and by helicopter in urban and suburban areas. Fishmeal blocks (polymers) were distributed by vehicle in core urban areas.

### Animal handling and sampling

Random points were generated each year using Geospatial Modeling Environment (Beyer 2012) to guide trap placement in study cells. Each cell was divided into four quadrants with seven to nine random points generated for each quadrant. Traps were placed within 800 m of six of the random points in three of the quadrants and seven random points in the fourth quadrant, with six traps at each point for a total of 150 traps/cell with at least 30.5 m between each trap. Traps were checked daily and moved every 2–3 d if no unique raccoons had been captured. Each cell was trapped for 10 consecutive nights in July or August, 6–8 wk prior to baiting, and again for 10 consecutive nights in November approximately 4 wk after baiting in 2014, 2015, and 2016). Live traps (Tomahawk Live Trap, Hazelhurst, Wisconsin, USA) were baited with marshmallows and Hard-Core Raccoon Lure (Minnesota Trapline Products, Pennoch, Minnesota, USA). Upon capture, we anesthetized raccoons, striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), and gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) with a 5:1 ratio of ketamine (10 mg/kg) to xylazine (2 mg/kg) via intramuscular injection based on estimated body weight (Kreeger and Arnemo 2012). All other species were released at the point of capture without sampling.

While anesthetized, each target animal received a unique metal ear tag (National Band and Tag Company, Newport, Kentucky, USA) and sex, relative age (juvenile or adult), weight, and general condition were recorded. Approximately 5 mL of blood were collected from a peripheral vein of each animal, and the first premolar tooth was collected from a subset of target species. Animals that were recaptured within a given prebait or postbait trapping effort were not resampled.

Animals were released at the point of capture after sampling and upon recovery from anesthesia. The only exception was for suspected rabid or seriously injured animals. These animals were humanely euthanized with either a properly placed gunshot or by placing the entire trap with the anesthetized animal in a carbon dioxide gas chamber in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association's Guidelines on Euthanasia (Leary et al. 2013).

### Rabies diagnostics

Animal sera were submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia for testing. Serum RVNA titers were determined using the rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test (RFFIT; Smith et al. 1996). A titer value  $>0.05$  international units/mL (IU/mL) was considered positive (Blanton et al. 2018). The effect of setting the RFFIT cut-off value at 0.1 and  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL (Moore and Hanlon 2010) was also examined (see Supplementary Material Table S1). Sera from four raccoons could not be evaluated at the cut-off value due to poor sample quality and were excluded from further analyses. A cross-section of the brain stem tissue from euthanized animals was tested for RABV by trained Wildlife Services personnel using a direct rapid immunohistochemistry test (Lembo et al. 2006).

### Age determination

Teeth were shipped to Matson's Laboratory LLC (Manhattan, Montana) for age determination. The lines in the cementum or dentin annuli of a cross-section of teeth were examined using a compound microscope and ultraviolet-light filters (Johnston et al. 1999). When available, age determined by this method was used instead of the relative age assessment in the field. Animals less than 1 yr old were classified as juveniles and those 1 yr old or older as adults.

### Data analysis

Our primary objective was to examine the cumulative effect and variability of high-density baiting at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> over 3 yr. We measured RVNA seroprevalence in raccoons before and after ORV baiting. Our analysis focused on raccoons because they are the primary reservoir of raccoon variant RABV and represented 98% (2,859/2,917) of the samples collected. The impact of baiting at high density over 3 yr on RVNA seroconversion was examined with a linear mixed model in Program R, package lme4 (Bates et al. 2015; R Core Team 2016). The fixed effects included the year and the ratio of Virginia opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*) to raccoons captured as covariates and a random effect of study cell. The ratio of opossums to raccoons was examined in the analysis due to concerns that they were a nontarget species competing with raccoons for baits.

In addition, to achieve our secondary objective of comparing the treatments, we used generalized linear mixed models to examine the probabilities that individual raccoons would be RVNA-positive before and after ORV in each bait density

TABLE 1. Habitat composition (%) of study cells in Virginia, USA where oral rabies vaccination baits were distributed at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> (study cells 79–80) or 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> (study cells 81–83) from 2014–16.

Habitat type	Study cell				
	79	80	81	82	83
Developed	4.0	5.2	6.5	7.9	5.7
Forested	64.8	45.5	31.0	47.0	61.8
Planted-cultivated	29.0	44.7	61.5	43.8	17.9
Other	2.2	4.6	1.0	1.3	14.6

treatment area. Bait density (75 or 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup>) was a fixed effect and the random effect was study cell. We examined the cumulative effect of RVNA response by year.

We performed model selection using the second order Akaike's information criteria (AICc) and considered models within two AICc values of the top model as competitive (Burnham and Anderson 2002). When model uncertainty occurred, we used model averaging to estimate the response variable (Burnham and Anderson 2002).

## RESULTS

### Bait distribution

Based on the 2011 National Land Cover Database (Homer et al. 2015), each study cell contained a combination of developed, forested, planted or cultivated, and other habitats with some variation among them (Table 1). During the study, a total of 779,622 and 645,580 baits were distributed across the 75 and 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> ORV zones, respectively,

which were baited during the same time frames, and encompassed areas in Virginia and neighboring states (Fig. 1 and Table 2). The standard-density ORV zone consisted of 5,121 km<sup>2</sup> and the high-density ORV zone encompassed 2,061 km<sup>2</sup>. Actual bait densities for the standard bait density ORV zone were 75, 75, and 74 baits/km<sup>2</sup> in 2014, 2015, and 2016, respectively. For the high-density ORV zone, the actual bait densities were 149, 153, and 148 baits/km<sup>2</sup> in 2014, 2015, and 2016, respectively. The actual bait densities accounted for areas where baiting was not permitted such as developed areas, swimming pools, interstate highways, large bodies of water, and wilderness areas.

### Trapping

During the 3-yr study, 2,640 unique and 219 recaptured raccoons were sampled. Recaptured animals were always trapped in the same study cell as the initial capture. In addition, six gray foxes, one red fox, and 57 striped skunks were sampled. Opossums were the only abundant nontarget species, with 1,935 captured across all study cells and years (Table 3). However, some of the opossums may have been recaptures, as they were released without sampling or marking, thus potentially inflating the ratios.

### Rabies diagnostics

Thirty raccoons were euthanized during the course of the study due to abnormal behavior or injury and all tested RABV-negative. The

TABLE 2. Distribution dates and number of oral rabies vaccination baits by type of distribution and density in Virginia, USA from 2014–16.

Year	Bait distribution	75 baits/km <sup>2</sup>		150 baits/km <sup>2</sup>		Prebait trapping	Postbait trapping
		Aerial <sup>1</sup>	Ground	Aerial	Ground		
2014	27 September–6 October	276,167	2,865	208,103	7,838	15–25 July, 5–15 August	4–14 November
2015	28 September–5 October	256,640	2,877	240,201	7,837	21–31 July	4–14 November
2016	21 September–10 October	240,831	242	175,523	6,078	19–29 July	8–18 November
Totals		779,367	8,684	624,921	21,753	NA <sup>b</sup>	NA <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Includes distribution by both fixed-wing and rotary wing aircraft.

<sup>b</sup> NA = not applicable.

TABLE 3. Comparison of the number of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) and Virginia opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*) trapped in Virginia, USA by study cell (79–83) at different oral rabies vaccination bait densities (75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> or 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup>) from 2014–16 during prebait and postbait trapping.

Year	No. recovered at 75 baits/km <sup>2</sup>				No. recovered at 150 baits/km <sup>2</sup>					
	Cell 79		Cell 80		Cell 81		Cell 82		Cell 83	
	Prebait	Postbait	Prebait	Postbait	Prebait	Postbait	Prebait	Postbait	Prebait	Postbait
2014										
Raccoon	92	35	92	70	143	62	98	71	105	55
Opossum	22	64	14	54	83	59	34	63	7	7
2015										
Raccoon	123	53	102	58	133	91	79	71	146	110
Opossum	54	76	94	201	64	129	43	76	7	28
2016										
Raccoon	137	44	123	22	183	91	133	77	169	87
Opossum	90	63	174	70	88	69	72	89	16	25
Total										
Raccoon	352	132	317	150	459	162	310	219	420	252
Opossum	166	203	282	325	235	257	149	228	30	60

difference in raccoon RVNA seroprevalence (postbait minus prebait) in the study cells baited at high density marginally increased during the study (Fig. 2, Table 4, and Supplementary Table S2; the intercept-only

TABLE 4. Model results for the differences in prebait and postbait seropositive rates at the study cell level from raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) in areas baited at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> or 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> in Virginia, USA from 2014–16. The Akaike’s information criteria (AICc) for the top model is 6.67 for the 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> area and –14.28 for the 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> area.

Covariates	K <sup>a</sup>	ΔAICc	ω <sup>b</sup>	LL <sup>c</sup>
75 baits/km <sup>2</sup>				
Intercept only	3	0	1	5.67
Opossum to raccoon ratio	4	19.16	0	11.08
Year	4	26.42	0	7.46
150 baits/km <sup>2</sup>				
Intercept only	3	0	0.71	12.54
Year	4	2.03	0.26	15.13
Opossum to raccoon ratio	4	5.41	0.05	13.43
Year + opossum to raccoon ratio	5	9.46	0.01	17.41

<sup>a</sup> K = no. of parameters.

<sup>b</sup> ω = AICc model weight.

<sup>c</sup> LL = Log likelihood of the model.

model had 71% of the model weight). In the standard bait density study cells, ORV appeared to be maintaining the RVNA seroprevalence in the raccoon population (Fig. 2 and Table 4; the intercept-only model had 100% of the model weight). The ratio of opossums to raccoons had no effect on raccoon population RVNA response at high or standard bait density treatments (Table 4).

The probability of an individual raccoon testing RVNA-positive post-ORV increased with year and was marginally higher (but confidence intervals [CIs] overlapped) for study cells baited at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> compared to 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 3, Table 5, and Supplementary Table S2). Post-ORV baiting seroprevalence tended to increase by year for both bait-density treatments. Year was less influential for pre-ORV baiting, but the trends were different by bait-density treatments: there was a neutral or slightly negative trend for standard-density baiting compared to a slightly positive trend for high-density baiting (Fig. 3 and Table 5). Although the model averaged estimates showed a trend in bait density, the confidence intervals overlapped, indicating no apparent difference between standard- and high-density baiting (Fig. 3). We reran the linear bait density effect model

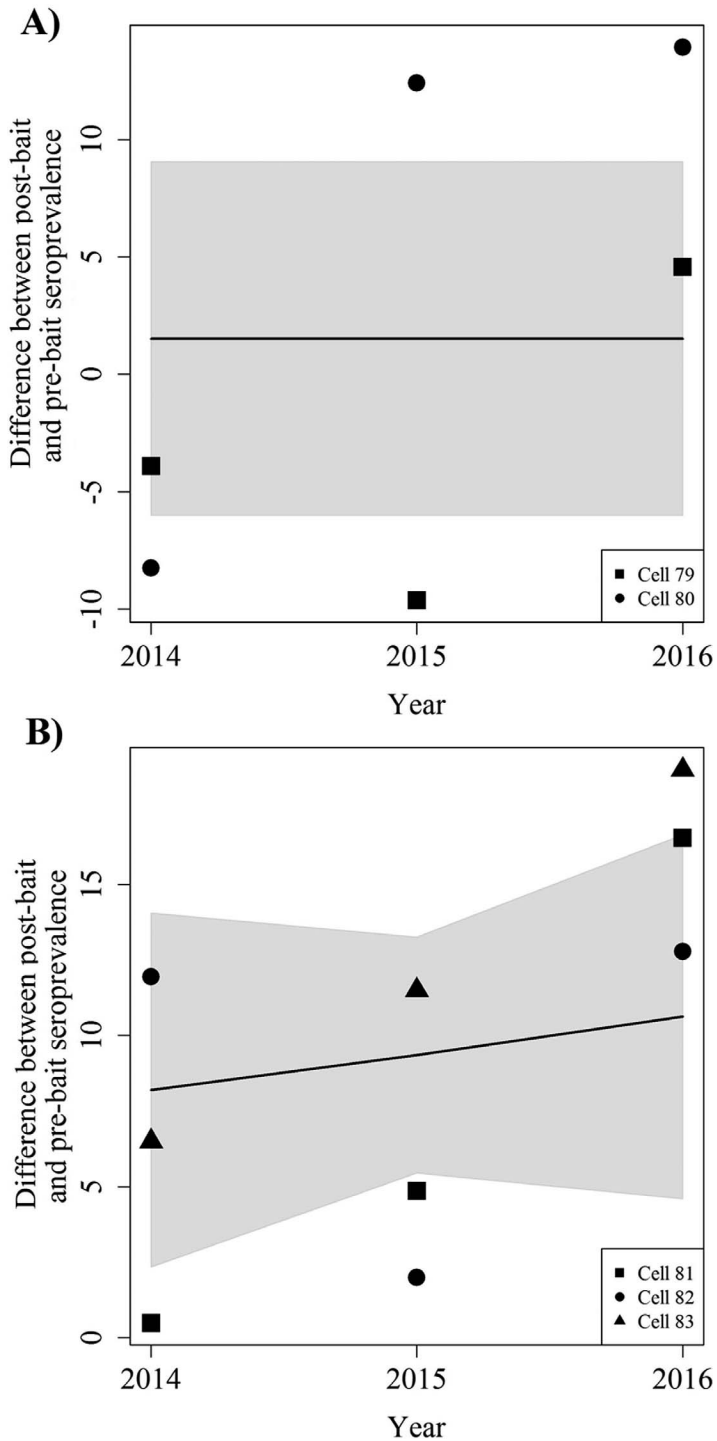


FIGURE 2. Effect of year on the difference observed between postbait and prebait rabies virus neutralizing antibody (RVNA) seroprevalence in raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) captured in study cells in Virginia, USA for two conditions: (A) Seroprevalence in raccoons where oral rabies vaccination (ORV) baits were distributed at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> in areas where ORV had been conducted annually for 12 yr prior to the study. (B) Seroprevalence in raccoons where oral rabies vaccination baits were distributed at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> in an ORV-naïve area. The lines represent the change in RVNA with 95% confidence interval (shaded regions).



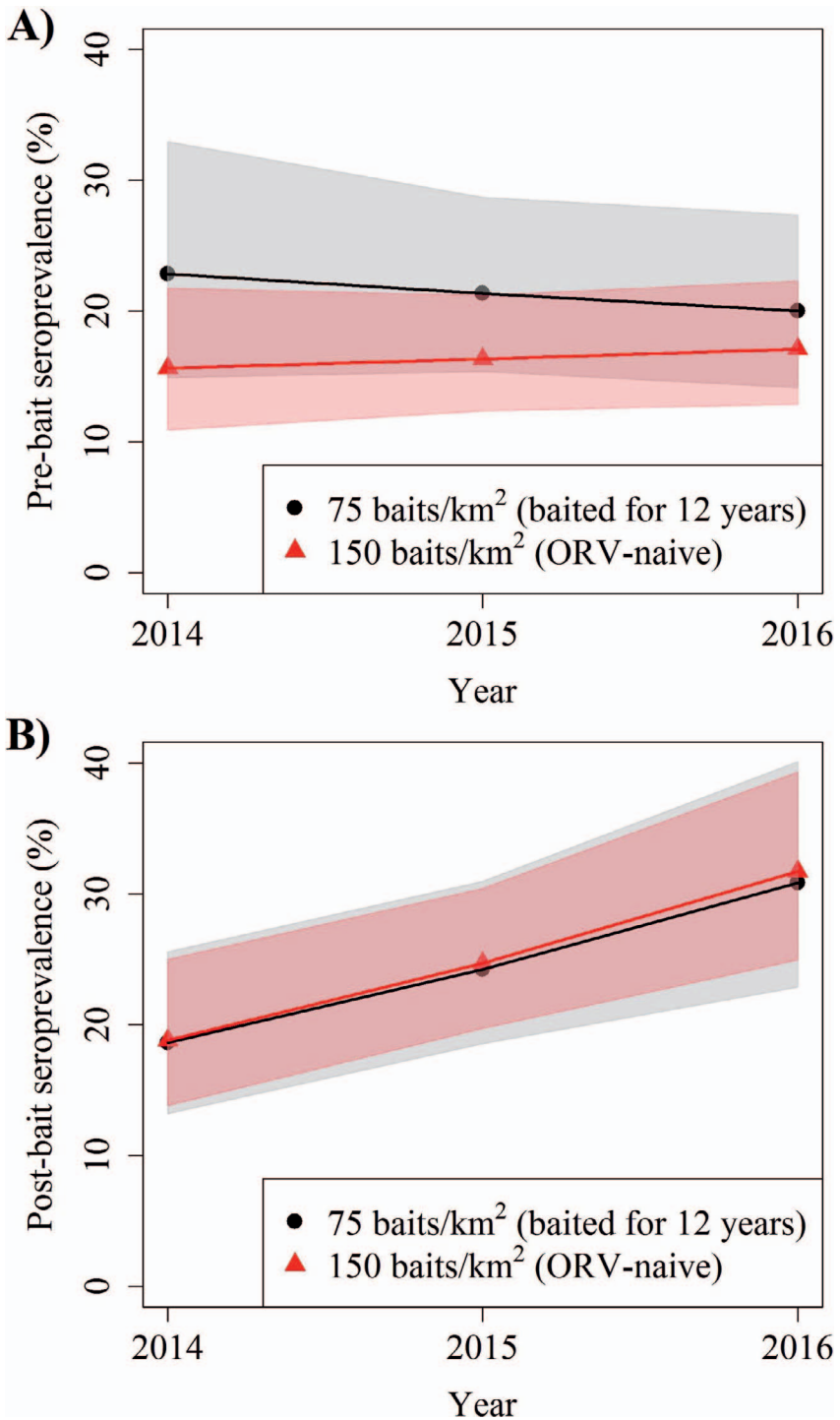


FIGURE 3. Effect of year and bait density (A) before (prebait) and (B) after (postbait) oral rabies vaccination (ORV) distribution in Virginia, USA from 2014–16 based on the generalized linear mixed model averaged probability of an individual raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) being rabies virus neutralizing antibody (RVNA) seropositive. The shaded areas represent the 95% confidence intervals for each of the RVNA seroprevalences based on bait density.

TABLE 5. Model results for logistic regression on raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) captured in Virginia, USA from 2014–16, prior to oral rabies vaccination (prebait) and after baiting (postbait), and tested for rabies virus neutralizing antibodies at the individual raccoon level. The second order Akaike information criterion (AICc) for the top model for prebait was 1,766.65, and for postbait the AICc for the top model was 1,119.76.

Covariates	K <sup>a</sup>	ΔAICc	ω <sup>b</sup>	LL <sup>c</sup>
<b>Prebait</b>				
Year × bait density	5	0	0.41	–878.31
Bait density	3	0.99	0.25	–880.81
Intercept only	2	1.61	0.18	–882.13
Year + bait density	4	3.00	0.09	–880.81
Year	3	3.62	0.07	–882.13
<b>Postbait</b>				
Year	3	0	0.65	–556.87
Year + bait density	4	1.95	0.24	–556.83
Year × bait density	5	3.60	0.11	–556.67
Intercept only	2	11.11	0.00	–563.50
Treatment	3	12.81	0.00	–563.34

<sup>a</sup> K = no. of parameters.

<sup>b</sup> ω = AICc model weight.

<sup>c</sup> LL = Log likelihood of the model.

with the actual bait densities and confirmed that the results and interpretation did not change.

## DISCUSSION

Although we observed a marginal increase in raccoon RVNA seroprevalence in the high-density bait area during the study (Fig. 2 and Table 4), in 2016, after 3 yr of baiting, the postbait seroprevalence was only 33.3% (95% CI: 27.8–39.3). In 2014, the postbait prevalence was 19.2% (95% CI: 14.2–25.4) and in 2015 it was 25.0% (95% CI: 20.2–30.5). These seroprevalences were considerably less than the estimated 60% population immunity reported as necessary to control and prevent RABV circulation in raccoons (Rees et al. 2013). A gradual increase in RVNA seroprevalence in raccoons resulting from consecutive ORV campaigns has also been previously reported (Robbins et al. 1998; Sattler et al. 2009). In our study, even though our results suggested an increase in RVNA seroprevalence rates each year, the difference between

postbait and prebait serology at high density only increased marginally (Fig. 2). If the effect of baiting had reached saturation level or a plateau, the difference between prebait and postbait RVNA seroprevalence would have started decreasing, assuming the prebait seroprevalence had increased. Because we did not observe a declining trend of ORV impact, further increases in RVNA seroprevalence could be expected if high-density baiting had continued, and the saturation level may have been higher than that of the standard-density areas. This impact was weakly supported when comparing the prebait RVNA seroprevalence between the two density treatments over the 3 yr (Fig. 3). While the prebait seroprevalence was maintained or even slightly higher in the high-density study areas, it had a slightly negative (but not significant) relationship in the standard-density areas. After 12 yr of baiting at standard density, no further gains in raccoon population seroprevalence were being realized.

Though not all of our study cells were in ORV-naïve areas, we observed approximately the same postbait effect on seroconversion over time whether baiting at high or standard density. This is similar to findings reported in a study conducted in Ohio where no advantage was observed for raccoon population RVNA seroprevalence when baiting at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> compared to 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup>, although the actual number of baits distributed may have affected the outcome (Sattler et al. 2009). In a 1-yr study conducted in Pennsylvania, increased RVNA response was detected in raccoons captured in areas baited at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> compared to 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup>, but the difference was insufficient to warrant the added cost associated with baits and bait distribution (Pedersen et al. 2018). Because baiting for 3 yr at 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> produced a similar result to baiting at 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> for 12 yr (Fig. 3), baiting at high density for a shorter period of time may be more cost effective. Bait density is one of the primary factors affecting the cost of ORV campaigns, and is thought to have a direct impact on effectiveness, although studies specifically evaluating

the impacts of bait density on case reduction outcomes in raccoons have been lacking.

Elmore et al. (2017) summarized various ORV bait density studies that have been conducted to evaluate the RABV antibody seroprevalence response in North American target wild carnivore species. Due to the wide variability in locations, bait densities, diagnostic tests, and even the cut-off value used to identify seropositive samples, meaningful comparisons across studies are difficult (Moore et al. 2017). As summarized by Elmore et al. (2017), the postbait seroprevalence in raccoons determined in other studies in the US was highly variable and ranged from 8–77%, although the seroprevalence is typically 30% after ORV baiting campaigns (Slate et al. 2009).

Baiting success can be affected by a number of factors, not only related directly to the bait itself (e.g., palatability) but also to the availability of other foods which can be affected by habitat type, as well as to nontarget species competing for baits. Although habitat varied slightly among our study cells, it was not a significant confounder. Despite the apparent difference of cell 83, where fewer opossums were captured compared to other study cells (Table 3), the population-level RVNA seroconversion of raccoons was similar in each of the study cells, indicating that opossums likely did not impact baiting success. In areas with high opossum densities and standard bait density (75 baits/km<sup>2</sup>) applications, opossums may have a greater impact on the number of baits available to raccoons even though this was not supported in our study. Another possibility for not observing an opossum-related effect may be because we accounted for cell variability in the analysis by using a random effect. Because there were only two or three cells per bait-density treatment, the effect of opossums may have been diluted by accounting for variability among cells. Opossums were by far the most abundant of all nontarget species captured (1,935 of 2,363). Other studies have reported opossums as a common nontarget species for ORV (Sattler et al. 2009; Pedersen et al. 2018) and are a concern because they may consume

baits meant for target species (Olson et al. 2000; Smyser et al. 2010).

Additional studies to quantify bait uptake in opossums are recommended, as they are the most likely nontarget species to compete for baits in similar rural habitats. Distribution of higher densities of baits in areas where opossum densities are known to be elevated may be warranted to ensure sufficient baits are available for target species. As has been suggested in other studies, baiting at densities higher than 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> with RABORAL V-RG is probably not worth the added expense except in contingency areas, new epizootic areas, or perhaps in urban or suburban areas where raccoon densities are significantly higher than in rural areas. However, additional studies to examine high-density baiting ( $\geq 5$  yr) may yield valuable insights into long-term effects on raccoon population immunity.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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#### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary material for this article is online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.7589/2018-05-138>.

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**Supplementary materials for Journal of Wildlife Diseases DOI: 10.7589/2018-05-138: Kerri Pedersen, Amy T. Gilbert, Eric S. Wilhelm, Kathleen M. Nelson, Amy J. Davis, Jordona D. Kirby, Kurt C. VerCauteren, Shylo R. Johnson, Richard B. Chipman. EVALUATION OF HIGH DENSITY ORAL RABIES VACCINE BAITING ON RABIES VIRUS NEUTRALIZING ANTIBODY RESPONSE IN RACCOONS (*PROCYON LOTOR*)**

Supplemental Table 1. Relative number of target species captured before and after oral rabies vaccine bait distribution in Virginia from 2014-2016. Animals were tested for rabies virus neutralizing antibodies with the rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test and are grouped by titer (measured in international units/mL).

Species (n)	<0.05	.05-0.10	.11-0.49	≥0.5
Gray Fox <sup>a</sup> , <i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i> (6)	4	0	0	0
Raccoon, <i>Procyon lotor</i> (2859)	2257	206	312	79
Red Fox, <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (1)	0	0	0	1
Striped Skunk <sup>1</sup> , <i>Mephitis mephitis</i> (57)	49	4	1	0

<sup>a</sup> No blood was available for testing two foxes and three striped skunks

Supplemental Table 2. Antibody prevalence of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) captured at five study sites in Virginia prior to and after oral rabies vaccine bait distribution of 75 baits/km<sup>2</sup> or 150 baits/km<sup>2</sup> from 2014-2016 and tested for antibodies using the rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test.

		2014		2015		2016	
		Pre-bait	Post-bait	Pre-bait	Post-bait	Pre-bait	Post-bait
Density (baits/km <sup>2</sup> )	Cell	% seropositive (95% CI)	% seropositive (95% CI)	% seropositive (95% CI)	% seropositive (95% CI)	% seropositive (95% CI)	% seropositive (95% CI)
75	79	24.7 (17.1-34.4)	20.0 (10.0-35.9)	26.7 (19.6-35.2)	16.0 (8.3-28.5)	20.4 (14.5-28.0)	24.4 (14.2-38.7)
75	80	27.5 (19.4-37.4)	20.0 (12.3-30.8)	19.1 (12.7-27.6)	31.2 (20.9-43.6)	17.9 (12.1-25.6)	33.3 (17.2-54.6)
150	81	12.6 (8.1-19.0)	12.9 (6.7-23.5)	15.0 (10.0-22.1)	19.8 (12.9-29.1)	9.8 (6.3-15.0)	26.4 (18.4-36.3)
150	82	9.2 (4.9-16.5)	21.1 (13.2-32.0)	17.7 (10.9-27.6)	19.7 (12.1-30.4)	15.8 (10.6-22.9)	28.6 (19.7-39.5)
150	83	17.1 (11.1-25.5)	23.6 (14.4-36.4)	21.2 (15.4-28.6)	32.7 (24.7-42.0)	26.0 (20.0-33.1)	44.8 (34.8-55.3)