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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **2017 HEALTH DEPARTMENT RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS FOR PETS**

### **FREDERICK, MD**

The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) announces the schedule for their 2017 Animal Rabies Vaccination Clinics:

- Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Farm & Home Services in Brunswick from 4 to 7 p.m.
- Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Thurmont Community Park from 5 to 8 p.m.

All clinics will be held rain or shine on a walk-in basis. Each vaccination is \$8.00 and payable by cash or check only. All dogs, cats, and ferrets are welcome and, for the safety and comfort of all, must be contained, leashed, or in a carrier.

In 2016, Frederick County had 35 laboratory-confirmed rabid animals, consisting of 17 bats, 12 raccoons, 3 skunks, 2 cats, and 1 fox.

Rabies has a nearly 100% mortality rate once symptoms present. However, rabies fatality is preventable in humans through avoidance of unvaccinated animals or, if exposed, early administration of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. In animals, rabies is preventable by vaccination or by preventing their exposure to unknown or unvaccinated animals. Since it is not always possible to limit your pet's interactions with unvaccinated wild or stray animals, it is crucial to get pets vaccinated against this deadly disease. According to Barry Gloffely, Director for the Health Department's Environmental Health Services, "The cornerstone of rabies prevention and control is rabies vaccination of domestic animals."

If you are bitten by a domestic pet, make sure to obtain contact information from the pet's owner so that the animal's health can be verified. For additional information about rabies, please contact 301-600-1717.

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