



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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2018 HEALTH DEPARTMENT RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS FOR PETS

FREDERICK, MD - The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) announces the schedule for their 2018 Animal Rabies Vaccination Clinics:

- Friday, May 11th at Farm & Home Services at 630 Souder Road in Brunswick from **4 to 7 p.m.**
- Thursday, September 13th 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 2017, Frederick County had 36 laboratory-confirmed rabid animals, consisting of 18 raccoons, 8 bats, 7 cats and 3 skunks. As of May 7, 2018 there have been 8 animals that have tested positive for rabies in 2018. These consist of 4 raccoons, 2 cats, 1 skunk and 1 cow.

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 Glotfelty, Director for the FCHD'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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