



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 fall 2018 Animal Rabies Vaccination Clinic:

- Thursday, September 13th at Thurmont Community Park from **5 to 8 p.m.**

The clinic 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.

So far in 2018 Frederick County has had 3 cats that were laboratory-confirmed rabid. There have also been 8 raccoons, 6 bats, 2 foxes, 1 skunk, 1 cow, and 1 bobcat that have tested positive. In 2017, Frederick County had 36 laboratory-confirmed rabid animals, consisting of 18 raccoons, 8 bats, 7 cats and 3 skunks.

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 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 a name and phone number from the pet's owner so that the animal's health can be verified and unnecessary post exposure shots can be avoided. For additional information about rabies, please contact 301-600-1717.

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