



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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2019 HEALTH DEPARTMENT RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS FOR PETS

FREDERICK, MD -- The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) announces the schedule for their 2019 Animal Rabies Vaccination Clinics:

- Friday, May 3rd at Ballenger Creek Park from **4 to 7 p.m.**
- Thursday, September 12th 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 2018, Frederick County had 26 laboratory-confirmed rabid animals consisting of 8 raccoons, 8 bats, 4 cats, 2 skunks, 2 foxes, 1 cow, and 1 bobcat. As of May 1, 2019, there have been 12 animals that have tested positive for rabies in 2019. These consist of 8 raccoons, 2 skunks, 1 cat, 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 FCHD Environmental Health Services Director Barry Glotfelty, "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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