



Caroline County Health Department

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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PRESS RELEASE

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From: Caroline County Health Department
Re: Stray Dogs and General Rabies Information

In late December, a stray puppy approximately 10 weeks old was found in the 3000 block of Seaman Road in Preston and later tested positive for rabies. The puppy exhibited classic symptoms of rabies: aggression, excessive salivation, vomiting, and slight paralysis. The Caroline County Health Department is currently investigating this incident. **If you or anyone you know has any information relating to this incident, please contact the Health Department at 410-479-8045 as soon as possible.**

Rabies is an acute, progressive viral infection that nearly always results in fatal encephalitis. An exposure to the rabies virus may occur when a person is bitten by or exposed to saliva of a rabid animal. The disease is prevented with a four dose rabies vaccine series administered over a period of 14 days and a dose of rabies immunoglobulin given at the beginning of the series. Each year, approximately 900 Marylanders receive preventive vaccinations after exposure to a rabid or potentially rabid animal. Animals with rabies often show changes in behavior. Wild animals may act friendly, domestic animals may become aggressive, and animals that are active only at night may appear during the day. Rabid animals may stagger, drool, or become paralyzed. The diagnosis of rabies is made by examining brain tissue from the suspected rabid animal.

To avoid being exposed to rabies:

- Have your dogs, cats, ferrets, and livestock vaccinated against rabies
- Keep your pet under your control at all times, especially when traveling
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance and do not feed wildlife
- Avoid sick animals and any that are acting in an unusual manner
- Cover garbage cans securely and do not leave pet food outside
- Do not relocate wildlife
- Prevent bats from entering your home. If you find a bat in your home, do not touch it. Only let it go if you are sure no people or household pets have had any contact with it. If it is alive, you can catch it by placing a small box, bowl, or can over the bat once it has landed to roost, and then slide a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside. Tape the cardboard to the container and contact Caroline County Health Department.

Report any suspected exposure immediately to the Caroline County Health Department at 410-479-8045.

The schedule for Spring rabies clinics will be available in the coming months.