

# **RABIES CONTROL**

**828-883-3713**

## **1 YEAR RABIES VACCINATIONS**

**ANIMAL SHELTER**

**1124 OLD ROSMAN HWY**

**BREVARD, NC**

**INCLUDES CERTIFICATE, TAG,  
LINKS OR RIVETS!**

**TUES - SAT 10 am - 4 pm**

**\$10 EACH**

## **LOST A TAG?**

**REPLACEMENT TAGS AFTER  
SHOWING VALID RABIES  
CERTIFICATE.**

## **ANIMAL SERVICES**

**COUNTY RESIDENTS**

**828-883-3713**

**BREVARD CITY RESIDENTS**

**828-883-2212**

## **ANIMAL BITES**

**POTENTIALLY RABID**

**WILDLIFE**

**CALL 911**

**RABIES** - Known since 2000 BC, the name means “rage”, or “madness” in Latin. Rabies is not a disease of humans by nature, rather of animals. Dogs account for 99% of the human deaths from rabies worldwide, over 59,000 a year. Here in North Carolina, wild animals such as the raccoon, fox, bat and skunk are the primary victims and carriers of the disease and infections in people are now rare, but this wasn't always the case.

In 1908 in North Carolina, 20 dogs and 1 cat tested positive for rabies. By 1935, 899 dogs, 59 cats and 41 cows tested positive along with 8 people during that time span. After many years of enacting stricter rabies and animal control laws along with improvements in animal vaccines, 2 dogs, 17 cats and 5 cows were found to be rabid in North Carolina in 2010. Human infection is now very rare.

Rabies infects wildlife, who infect domestic animals, such as pet dogs and cats, who in turn can infect people. By vaccinating dogs and cats against rabies, the cycle of transmission to humans is fractured, protecting you and your pets.

Rabies is a virus which is “shed” through the saliva of an infected animal. Rabies always kills its host once symptoms occur. Any bite from any animal should be washed immediately with warm water and soap, the animal isolated as much as is possible, your doctor contacted and the bite reported by calling 911. Humans can receive a post exposure treatment but wild animals and unvaccinated pets are euthanized and tested with some exceptions.

Vaccinated pets who are exposed must be revaccinated within 5 days with and unvaccinated pets may have the opportunity to be quarantined for 6 months at the owner's expense at a veterinary facility. The easiest, most healthy, inexpensive and smart thing to do is simply vaccinate our pets.

# **RABIES CONTROL IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY**



**It's easier  
than you  
think!**

## What is rabies?

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system and resides in brain tissue. The virus is secreted in saliva and is usually transmitted to people and animals by a bite from an infected animal. Less commonly, rabies can be transmitted when saliva from a rabid animal comes in contact with an open cut on the skin or the eyes, nose, or mouth of a person or animal. Once the outward signs of the disease appear, rabies is nearly always fatal.

## What animals can get rabies?

Only mammals contract rabies; birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians do not. Most cases of rabies in North Carolina occur in wild animals, primarily skunks, raccoons, bats, coyotes, and foxes. In recent years, cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies due to cat owners not vaccinating their cats. Rabies is also diagnosed in dogs and cattle in significant numbers along with horses, goats, sheep, swine and ferrets.

## What are the signs of rabies in animals?

Once the rabies virus enters the body, it travels along the nerves to the brain. Dogs, cats, and ferrets with rabies may show a variety of signs; fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, depression, self mutilation, sensitivity to light, difficulty swallowing, staggering, and seizures. Wild animals may only display unusual behavior; a nocturnal animal may be seen wandering in the daytime, &/or appear unsteady or unafraid of humans or other animals. If you observe an animal displaying these symptoms, **do not approach the animal**, call Animal Services

## What if my pet has been exposed or bitten by a wild animal?

- Consult your veterinarian immediately and report the bite to Animal Services.
- If your pet received a rabies vaccine at least 28 days before the exposure, the pet must be revaccinated within 5 days after the exposure.
- If your pet has not received a rabies vaccination at least 28 days before the exposure, or the vaccination has expired, the pet must be quarantined for 6 months at the owner's expense or euthanized.

## What happens to the wild animal?

- Wild animals, such as the fox, skunk, bat or raccoon that are captured or that have exposed a pet of human can not be relocated and must be euthanized.

## What if I am bitten?

- **Don't panic!** Wash the wound thoroughly and vigorously with warm water and soap.
- **Do not approach the animal**, whether living or dead!
- If you must shoot the animal, avoid the head. The brain will be needed to test for rabies.
- Call your physician immediately and explain how you were bitten.
- Call 911 to contact Animal Services.

## What if my pet has bitten someone?

- Urge the victim to see a physician immediately!
  - Report the bite to Animal Services.
- If your pet is a cat, dog or ferret, it will be quarantined for 10 days at the animal shelter or a veterinarian.
- After the quarantine your pet must be vaccinated against rabies if its vaccination is not current.

## When should pets be vaccinated against rabies?

- All dogs, cats and ferrets should receive their first rabies vaccination when they are between 3 and 4 months of age.
- The first rabies vaccination protects the pet for 1 year.
- Pets that receive their rabies booster from a licensed veterinarian are protected for 3 years.
- Pets that receive their rabies booster from a Certified Rabies Vaccinator are protected for 1 year only.

## Where can pets be vaccinated against rabies?

- Any licensed veterinarian or Rabies Vaccinator can administer the rabies vaccination.
- Animal Services administers 1 year vaccines to pets Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.
- Field calls for rabies vaccination can be scheduled for hunt clubs, kennels and others with 10 or more dogs or cats.
- Private individuals may not possess, distribute or administer rabies vaccines in North Carolina.

## What is a rabies certificate?

- Veterinarians and Certified Rabies Vaccinators are required to provide the owner of a pet that receives a rabies vaccination a rabies certificate and a rabies tag.
- The rabies tag should be worn by the pet at all times.
- The rabies certificate is the legal documentation needed to certify that your pet has been vaccinated against rabies. Keep it in a safe place!
- Animal Service officers may ask you to provide the certificate when checking areas for pets that have not been vaccinated or you may be asked for it when traveling with your pet.