



# Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Faith Lustik, Health Planner  
(315) 786-3720

### **Fox Tests Positive for Rabies**

Watertown, NY August 19, 2014~ The New York State Health Department laboratory has reported to the Jefferson County Public Health Service that a fox, found in the town of Champion, has tested positive for rabies.

Rabies is a fatal disease that attacks the brain and spinal cord. It can take several weeks to several months for rabies symptoms to appear. Early treatment after an exposure can prevent rabies.

Any mammal can get rabies, but it is most often seen in bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Below are steps to help prevent rabies:

1. Teach children to stay away from unfamiliar animals, either wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
2. Wash any wound from an animal thoroughly with soap and water and **seek medical attention immediately.**
3. If your family or your pet has been exposed to a bat, capture the bat and have it tested for rabies. If you awaken to find a bat in your room, or a bat is present in the room of an unattended or sleeping child or, in a room with someone with a mental impairment, seek medical advice and have the bat tested.
4. Be a responsible pet owner by keeping your pet's vaccinations current. Getting your pet vaccinated can help stop the spread of rabies from wild animals to humans. Tonight there will be a rabies vaccination clinic at the [Deferiet DPW at 66 Riverside Drive](#) for dogs, cats and ferrets. This clinic is donation based.

For further information about rabies, please go to [www.jcphs.org](http://www.jcphs.org) and click on [Rabies Control](#). For information additional clinics are offered this fall, check out the calendar at [www.jcphs.org](http://www.jcphs.org).

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