



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Skunk Tests Positive for Rabies

Watertown, NY September 30, 2014~ The New York State Health Department laboratory has reported to the Jefferson County Public Health Service that a skunk, found in the village of West Carthage, 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. Do not leave pet food outside as it attracts wildlife to your home.
3. Wash any wound from an animal thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately.
4. 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.
5. Be a responsible pet owner by keeping your pet's vaccinations current. Getting your pet vaccinated by your vet or at a clinic can help stop the spread of rabies from wild animals to humans. The next rabies vaccination clinic will be October 9, 2014 from 6-8pm at Jefferson County Dog Control. The clinic is donation based.

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

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