



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Faith Lustik, Health Planner
(315) 786-3723

Free Rabies Clinic to Target the East Side of City

Watertown, NY February 8, 2016~ The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) will hold a no cost rabies vaccination clinic at the Salvation Army gymnasium at 723 State Street, Watertown on Tuesday, February 23rd from 4pm-6pm. This clinic is being held in the vicinity of where four rabid skunks were located.

The clinic will allow for pet owners who reside in east side of the city to walk to the clinic location, if needed. Jeffrey Leiendecker, Rabies Coordinator with JCPHS, states, "Thank you to the Salvation Army for providing space for this clinic. By eliminating a barrier to vaccination that pet owners who lack transportation may have, we hope to vaccinate many pets who are not current with vaccinations."

Dogs, cats and ferrets 3 months or older must be vaccinated, **even if they stay indoors**. Every dog and cat needs two rabies vaccinations one year apart, and then every three years needs revaccination. Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier and under the control of a responsible adult. Mr. Leiendecker reminds pet owners to bring proof of a current rabies vaccination if they wish to receive a three-year certificate for their pets. Mr. Leiendecker explains, "Vaccinating your pet protects you, your family and your community".

Strict laws of New York State hold owners responsible for keeping dogs, cats and ferrets up-to-date in their rabies vaccination, and assign them responsibility for confinement of any unvaccinated pet at the owner's expense if they are exposed to rabies. Animals kept or fed by a homeowner are the responsibility of the homeowner. Residents must check and be sure that all their animals are up-to-date with their rabies vaccinations.

This no cost clinic is made possible with support from Senator Patti Ritchie. The JCPHS will be offering spring rabies clinics at Jefferson County Dog Control beginning in March. To stay informed about upcoming rabies clinics, follow us on [Facebook](#) or go to www.jcphs.org.

~END~