



## Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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

Media Release

Immediate Release

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### **September 28th, 2012 is World Rabies Day: Rabies is Preventable!**



Watertown, NY, September 27, 2012 ~ The Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) reminds everyone that rabies is a deadly virus that can kill anyone who gets it. Every year, an estimated 40,000 people in the U.S. receive a series of shots known as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) due to potential exposure to rabies. In addition, the U.S. public health cost associated with rabies is more than \$300 million a year. Each year around the world, rabies results in more than 55,000 deaths – approximately one death every 10 minutes. Most deaths are reported from Africa and Asia with almost 50% of the victims being children under the age of 15.

September 28 is World Rabies Day, a global health observance that seeks to raise awareness about rabies and enhance prevention and control efforts. Co-sponsored by CDC and the Alliance for Rabies Control since 2007, World Rabies Day has been celebrated in countries throughout the world, including the U.S.

No matter where you live, rabies can threaten your family's health. Fortunately, there are things you can do around the home to help reduce the risk of getting rabies.

- Vaccinate your pets. This year's last JCPHS rabies vaccination clinic will be held October 11, 2012 from 6pm-8pm at Jefferson County Dog Control. A \$10 donation is requested.
- Do not feed or put water for your pets outside and keep garbage securely covered. These items may attract wild animals or stray animals to your yard.
- Spaying or neutering your pet may reduce any tendency they might have to roam or fight and thus reduce the chance that they will be exposed to rabies.
- Enjoy all wild animals from a distance and teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals – even if they appear friendly.
- If you have bats in your house, learn how to 'bat-proof' your home.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/management/index.html>

While most wild animals are found outdoors, bats can sometimes fly into buildings. This includes your home and even the room where you sleep. If a person has been asleep in a room with a bat or a young child or incapacitated person who is awake or asleep with a bat in the room, trap the bat using thick gloves and a box so that it can be tested for rabies. Call Jefferson County Public Health Service at 786-3720 or go to [www.jcphs.org](http://www.jcphs.org) for further information. To keep updated on all JCPHS happenings join us at [www.facebook.com/jcphs](http://www.facebook.com/jcphs).

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