

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

County's First Rabies Case Confirmed *"Rabies Clinic Slated for Rome"*

The County's first confirmed case of animal rabies in 2011 has been reported to the Oneida County Health Department, an official announced today.

A family pet in the Clinton area was attacked by a raccoon that subsequently tested positive for the deadly virus and bitten several times, Bobbi Jo Girven, Rabies Treatment and Prevention Coordinator for the department said.

"The small dog survived the attack, but was not up-to-date on its rabies immunizations and will, as a result, have to be euthanized," Girven said.

Under New York State Health Law, all dogs, cats and pet ferrets three months and older are required to vaccinated against rabies. Dogs and cats require two rabies vaccines one year apart and then receive a booster ever three years. Ferrets require the vaccine each year.

In addition to having their pets vaccinated, owners are cautioned against leaving their animals chained outdoors and unattended. People should be aware of animals exhibiting erratic or aggressive behavior and take steps to avoid contact with them. Children should be cautioned about having contact with wild or stray animals they may encounter outdoors.

The next in a series of summer rabies clinics sponsored by the Oneida County Health Department will be held at **Rome City Hall** on **Thursday, July 14th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM**. Dogs, cats and ferrets on a leash or in a pet carrier can receive the rabies vaccine for a donation of 10-dollars to help defray costs.

For more information on rabies or for a complete schedule of rabies clinics, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 798-5064 or visit the web site at ocgov.net.