



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

News Release

Date: July 21, 2023
For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
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Bat Tests Positive for Rabies in Remsen

Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Recognize Signs of Rabies

A bat has tested positive for rabies in Remsen. The bat was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on July 19, 2023 and positive results were reported on July 20, 2023. Four cats and three dogs were exposed to the bat and received rabies vaccine boosters. Three of these pets will be on a six-month quarantine as they were not up to date with rabies vaccinations.

Most bats do not have rabies, however, they are the leading cause of rabies deaths in the United States. Bats can sometimes enter homes through cracks or small holes. It is important to bat proof your home to prevent them from entering. Bat bites or scratches can be undetectable, and it is possible to be exposed without knowing. If you find one in your home, you should try to safely capture it so it can be tested and contact the health department for guidance. For helpful tips on how to protect yourself and your home from rabies and bats, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/animals/bats/index.html>.

Signs of rabies include:

- Animal acting strangely
- Animal acting mad
- Animal acting shy
- Animal getting unusually close
- Drooling or foaming from the mouth

If you see an animal, wild or stray, with these signs, do not approach it and stay away. If any animal is acting strangely, call your local animal control officer for help.

Per NYS Public Health Law, all dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated by 4 months-old and then one year following the initial dose. Dogs and cats need to receive a booster dose every three years following. Ferrets must receive booster doses annually. For the safety of pets and the convenience of county residents, the Oneida County Health Department offers Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the year in various community locations. The following rabies vaccination clinics have been scheduled:

- July 24, 2023 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Garage
- August 21, 2023 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Rome Kennedy Arena
- October 19, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Trenton Offices

ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138

SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5249 • FAX: (315) 731-3491

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5064 • FAX: (315) 798-6486

CLINICAL SERVICES

406 ELIZABETH ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5748 • FAX: (315) 798-1057

Appointments are required for the clinics. For more information on rabies prevention, or to make an appointment for an upcoming rabies vaccination clinic, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 or log onto our web site at ocgov.net/rabies.