ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

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News Release

Date: August 11, 2020   Contact: Megan Graziano
For Immediate Release   315-798-5229

Kitten Tests Positive for Rabies in City of Rome
Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Recognize Signs of Rabies

A kitten has tested positive for rabies in the City of Rome. The kitten was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center Laboratory for testing on August 6, 2020 and positive results were reported on August 7, 2020. Multiple adults and pets were exposed to the kitten, and are receiving post exposure prophylaxis.

Signs of rabies include:
- Animal acting strangely
- Animal acting mad
- Animal acting shy – the animal may get 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. **Residents are strongly urged to not approach animals that they do not know.**

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. Our remaining rabies vaccination clinic scheduled in Annsville is booked and there are no other clinics scheduled at this time.

Health Department Officials offer the following vaccination recommendations:

- All cats, dogs, and ferrets three months or older must have a current rabies vaccination, even if they stay indoors.
- Dogs and cats must receive a rabies vaccination at three months old, one year, and then once every three years.
- Ferrets must receive a rabies vaccination every year.

For more information on Rabies Prevention, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 or log onto our web site at https://www.ocgov.net//oneida/envhealth/MosquitoesTicksRabies