

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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# NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Bobbi Jo Kahl, Rabies Prevention Program Coordinator  
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## Year's First Rabies Clinic Slated for Forestport *Health Department Increases Number of Clinics for 2012*

The Oneida County Health Department has scheduled the first of thirteen planned rabies immunization clinics to be held in 2012 for Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the ***Back to Basics Dog Obedience Training Facility*** located at 11954 State Route 28 in Forestport from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. In the event of inclement weather, the clinic will be held the following Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, health department officials said.

*"Rabies is the most dangerous disease transmitted from animals to humans and continues to be widespread throughout Oneida County,"* Bobbi Jo Kahl, Coordinator for the Rabies Prevention and Treatment Program said. *"We want to offer County residents as many opportunities as possible to vaccinate their pets in order to keep them and their human contacts safe from this deadly virus so we're planning an increased number of clinics this year."*

Last year ten clinics were held at various sites throughout the Oneida County and vaccinated 1129 pet dogs, cats and ferrets. In 2011 Oneida County submitted 171 animals for testing and reported eight cases of rabies in animals including four raccoons, two brown bats, a grey fox and one skunk. Seventy people in Oneida County underwent post exposure rabies treatment and a number of pets had to be euthanized. According to Kahl, the health department is planning as many as thirteen rabies clinics in 2012.

**New York Health Law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets three months and older be vaccinated for rabies even if they are kept indoors. Dogs and cats require two rabies vaccinations one year apart and then one every three years thereafter. Ferrets must receive the vaccination every year. Dog and cat owners should bring proof of previous vaccination to receive a three-year certificate.**

Those attending any of the clinics must have their pets leashed or in a pet carrier. A 10-dollar donation is suggested to help defray costs.

For more information on the prevention and treatment of rabies call the Oneida County Health Department at **798-5064** or visit the web site at [ocgov.net/oneida/health](http://ocgov.net/oneida/health).

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