

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adirondack Bank Building, 5th Floor, 185 Genesee St., Utica, NY 13501

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE



PHYLLIS D. ELLIS, BSN, MS, F.A.C.H.E.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Phone: (315) 798-5064 ☎ Fax: (315) 798-6486 ☎ Email: environmentalhealth@ocgov.net

NEWS RELEASE

November 24, 2014
For Immediate Release

Contact: Bobbi Kahl 798-3676

Rabies Awareness Should Be Year-Round

On November 13, 2014, a raccoon was sighted in a pasture in the Town of Vernon with several cows. The raccoon was being aggressive towards the cows. The deceased raccoon was sent for rabies testing. The Oneida County Health Department was notified the test came back positive on November 18, 2014. The three exposed cows were euthanized, and the remaining ones will be under watch for symptoms over the next 6 months. None of the cows had been vaccinated for rabies.

It is important to understand that not only family pets can be exposed to rabies. Working farms, hobby farms, and people who just have one or two farm animals should vaccinate for rabies.

Signs to look for in a rabid animal are: staggering, convulsions, choking, frothing at the mouth and paralysis. Many animals will make unusual sounds. "Although this incident didn't occur in the city of Sherrill, the Sherrill Police Department has some very good advice for everyone. "If you see these symptoms with an animal please stay away from the animal and dial 911," comments Chief Drake of the Sherrill Police Department.

Health department officials say there are things you can do to reduce the risks rabies for yourself, your family, your pets, and livestock:

- Keep your pets' rabies vaccinations up-to-date. Dogs, cats and ferrets 3-months and older must be vaccinated. The Oneida County Health Department conducts a number of rabies clinics throughout the county.
- Do not touch or feed wild or unknown animals
- Do not touch dead or sick animals and warn children to avoid wild or strange animals
- Walk your pet on a leash, and keep your pets indoors at night
- Reduce your chances of contact by 'animal proofing' your property
- Learn the signs of rabies in animals
- Seek immediate medical attention if you have contact with an animal you think may be rabid
- Report all animal bites to the Health Department -798-5064

For additional information: www.ocgov.net

###

"PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"