

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Rabies Awareness Should Be Year-Round

In the Town of Whitestown, a person was bitten by a cat that was sick and needed help. Individuals brought the cat to a vet; the vet determined the cat was too sick to treat. The cat was euthanized and sent for rabies testing. The cat was rabid.

Signs to look for in a rabid animal are: staggering, convulsions, choking, frothing at the mouth and paralysis. Many animals will make unusual sounds. "If you see these symptoms with an animal please stay away from the animal and keep your pets away as well," comments Bobbi Kahl of the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD).

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.
- Maintain control of your pets by keeping cats and ferrets indoors and keeping dogs under direct supervision.
- **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
- Spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or vaccinated regularly.
- 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
- Call animal control to remove all stray animals from your neighborhood since these animals may be unvaccinated or ill.
- Report all animal bites to the Health Department -798-5064

So in addition to vaccinating your pets, the community needs to be aware that when getting an animal from a friend or Craigslist and the animal doesn't come with a shot history, the new owner should take the animal to a vet for shots. It is their responsibility as a pet owner to keep up on the shots of their animal.

**The OCHD will be having a Rabies Clinic on May 12, 2016 at the Clark Mills Firehouse
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

For additional information: www.ocgov.net
<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>