

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Rabies Awareness Should Be Year-Round

On October 29, 2018 a couple went outside their home in the Rome area, and one of their dogs was fighting with a raccoon, the other dog was outside as well but had no known contact. The one dog was bitten in the face by raccoon, owner separated the two animals and the raccoon was killed. The raccoon tested positive for rabies. The dogs were given booster shots because they were both current on rabies shots.

Signs to look for in a rabid animal are staggering, convulsions, choking, frothing at the mouth and paralysis. Many animals will make unusual sounds and some animals become unusually passive.

Health department officials say there are things you can do to reduce the risks rabies for your pets:

First, visit your veterinarian with your pet on a regular basis and keep rabies vaccinations up-to-date for all cats, ferrets, and dogs.

Second, maintain control of your pets by keeping cats and ferrets indoors and keeping dogs under direct supervision.

Third, spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or vaccinated regularly.

Finally, call animal control to remove all stray animals from your neighborhood since these animals may be unvaccinated or ill.

**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

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"PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"