

# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adirondack Bank Building, 5<sup>th</sup> 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

## ADMINISTRATION

Phone: (315) 798-6400 Fax: (315) 266-6138

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Regina Bulman 315 266-7049

### Fox Tests Positive for Rabies in New Hartford *Officials Offer Rabies Prevention Reminders*

A fox has tested positive for rabies after coming in contact with two residents in the Town of New Hartford.

According to New Hartford Chief of Police Michael Inserra, on 2/22/19 one resident was bitten by the fox walking along a roadway in town, and a second resident was approached by the fox and bitten as the resident exited a vehicle at the resident's home in the same area. New Hartford Town Police responded and the fox was killed.

The two residents were immediately started on rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) treatment, which is a post-exposure vaccine given over a 14-day period. The fox was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing where positive results were reported today.

"This is the second case in a week of an animal testing positive for rabies in our community," said Oneida County Director of Health, Phyllis D. Ellis, BSN, MS, F.A.C.H.E. "It is extremely important that residents are attentive to basic safety measures for the protection of their families and pets."

Some rabies prevention reminders include:

- Don't feed or touch wild animals or stray dogs or cats.
- Be sure your dogs, cats and ferrets are up-to-date on rabies vaccinations. Vaccines for dogs, cats and ferrets after three months of age are effective for a one-year period. Revaccinations can be effective for up to three years, depending on the product used. Pets too young to be vaccinated should be kept indoors.
- Don't try to separate two fighting animals. Wear gloves if you handle your pet after a fight.
- Keep family pets indoors at night. Don't leave them outside unattended.
- Don't attract wild animals to your home or yard. Keep your property free of stored bird seed or other foods. Feed pets indoors. Tightly cap or put away garbage cans.
- Tell children not to touch any animal they do not know. Encourage children to immediately tell an adult if they are bitten by any animal.
- If a wild animal is on your property, let it wander away. Bring children and pets indoors and alert neighbors who are outside. It is important to contact police, municipal, or wildlife control officials.
- Seek medical attention and report all animal bites or contact with wild animals to your local health department.

The Health Department offers rabies vaccination clinics throughout the year at various community locations. The next clinic is scheduled on March 22 at the Trenton Municipal Center from 6-7:30 pm. For more information on Rabies Prevention or a complete schedule of rabies clinics, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315 798-5064 or log onto our web site at [ocgov.net/oneida/health](http://ocgov.net/oneida/health).