

Moore County Health Department
Moore County Animal Services
PRESS RELEASE

Subject: Rabies Advisory
Date: 05-12-2016
Contact: Emily Lee RN, BSN
Phone: (910) 947-3300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vaccinate your pets for rabies. The rabies virus continues to be present in our region in the wildlife population. Animals commonly affected are Raccoons, Fox and Coyotes among others. Rabies in wild animals can be passed to domestic animals such as your dogs and cats, as well as humans through a bite or other contact. In the past two months four (4) Fox have tested positive for the virus in the Carthage/Pinehurst area.

Moore County residents are cautioned to supervise pets while outdoors whenever possible and if a person or pet comes in contact with a fox or raccoon or other potential rabies carrier, report the incident to Moore County Animal Services (910) 947-2858 or your local Police authority.

The best way to protect your family is to keep your pets vaccinated!! All dogs and cats must be vaccinated against the rabies virus at four (4) months of age, at regular intervals thereafter and display a current rabies tag. Rabies vaccinations can be obtained at the Animal Center, 5235 US Highway 15/501 in Carthage for \$5 or contact your veterinarian.

Also, if you encounter a wild animal acting strange, do not approach it. Rabies can be easily prevented by avoiding contact with any unfamiliar animal. The rabies virus is transmitted through the saliva or brain/nervous system tissue of an infected animal. Rabies virus can be transmitted to humans through a bite wound, open cuts in the skin, or onto mucous membranes such as the mouth or eyes.

If you are exposed through a bite or scratch, it's important to wash the wound(s) immediately and thoroughly with soap and water and be evaluated by a physician. Non-bite exposures should also be evaluated by a physician. See your doctor or local ER for possible wound care, and consideration of rabies vaccination, also known as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Your doctor may consult with the state or local health department to decide if rabies vaccination is right for you. It's also important to remember that all bites or exposures from a potentially rabid animal must be reported to Moore County Animal Services at (910) 947-2858.

If you are unsure whether to seek treatment for potential rabies exposure, please call the Moore County Health Department at (910) 947- 3300.