

**Two Rabies Cases Test Positive**  
**Recorded Information Line 778-3911, Option #1**  
**4/22/04**

The Broome County Health Department, today, reported the results of two rabies positive raccoons. On April 15, 2004 a raccoon, which later tested positive for rabies, attacked a dog on Whitney Point – Lisle Road in the Village of Lisle. On April 18, 2004, a rabies positive raccoon attacked two dogs on Noyes Road in Vestal. Fortunately all three dogs had current rabies vaccinations and only required a rabies booster, thus avoiding a six-month quarantine. However, in both situations, the dog owners were exposed to rabies. In one situation, the rabid animal scratched the owner as he attempted to separate the animals. The second dog owner touched raccoon saliva, which contains rabies virus, while checking the dogs for injuries. Both owners must undergo post-exposure rabies medication. Pet owners should **always** wear thick gloves when touching a pet that has been in an altercation with a wild animal. Further, pet owners should **always** wash their hands, even if wearing gloves, and any wounds immediately after contact with the pet or the wild animal.

Residents are reminded to avoid direct contact with unfamiliar or wild animals and to never bring them into your home. Protect your pet(s) by never allowing them to roam free. Consider keeping them indoors at night and make sure they get a rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccination is mandatory by Public Health Law for dogs, cats and ferrets once they are four months old. If an unvaccinated pet is exposed to rabies, the owner may either have the animal humanely put down or confine it to a cage for six months.

A Rabies Vaccination Clinic will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – Noon, at the Floral Avenue Fire Station in Johnson City.

As warm weather approaches there will be an increase in encounters between rabid wildlife and humans and their pets. Since 1991, when the first rabid raccoon was found in Broome County, it has been determined that rabid animals can be expected throughout Broome County, not only in specific geographic areas. Because rabies exists in Broome County, **all** county residents should avoid wild animals, stray pets and pets they do not know.

If you are bitten, scratched or have contact with an animal you believe to be rabid, immediately wash the wound, seek medical attention, and report the incident to the Broome County Health Department at 778-2887. After normal business hours, residents with urgent inquiries can call Broome County Emergency Dispatch at 778-1911. A dispatcher will then contact Health Department staff for you.

Residents who have not had their dogs, cats or domesticated ferrets vaccinated are encouraged to make an appointment with a Veterinarian or attend one of these upcoming clinics:

- Johnson City – Sat. April 24, 10am-Noon, Fire Station – Floral Avenue
- Vestal, Sat. May 1, 1-2pm, Pet Depot – Town Square Mall
- Sanford – Sat. May 8, 1:30-3pm, Highway Garage – Deposit – 192 Front Street
- Nanticoke – Tues. May 11, 6-7pm, Town Garage – Cherry Valley Hill Road
- Endicott – Sat. May 15, 11am-Noon, Fire Station – N. Page Avenue
- Town of Conklin – Saturday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
709 Conklin Road (Mike’s Barber Shop)
- Town of Binghamton – Mon. May 24, 6:30-8pm, Highway Garage – Hawleyton Road
- City of Binghamton – Sat. June 5, 10am-Noon, Fire Station #4 – Robinson Street
- Fenton – Tues. June 8, 6-8pm, Fire Station Pavilion, Rte. 369  
Across from Chenango Valley State Park
- Windsor – Wed. June 16, 6-7:30pm, Town Garage
- Colesville, Fri. June 18, 6-7:30pm, Town Garage
- Whitney Point – Fri. June 25, 6-8pm, Fire Station – Main Street

Vaccinations are available at no cost. A \$5.00 donation is requested but not required. All animals must be at least three-months-old and under the control of the owner at the clinic. **Animal owners must bring a Certificate of Immunization to the clinic for animals immunized previously.**

For more information about rabies, call the Broome County Health Department information line at (607)-778-3911, option 1.