



Humboldt County
Department of Health and Human Services

Phillip R. Crandall, Director

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Date: May 6, 2011

Human rabies case reported in Humboldt County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention informed local public health officials this afternoon that a Willow Creek resident has tested positive for rabies.

The source of the disease has not been identified. Rabies is transmitted by the saliva and neural tissue of infected animals. State and local officials are contacting people who may have been exposed and encouraging them to seek treatment. Preventative vaccines, also known as post-exposure prophylaxis, have been proven to be 100 percent successful at preventing illness.

Human rabies in the United States is rare. Since the 1990s, only one or two cases are reported each year. There has never been a documented case of human-to-human transmission of rabies. While the disease is more common in other countries, widespread vaccination of domestic animals in the U.S. keeps the number of human cases low.

"As in many locations, Rabies is endemic in Humboldt County wildlife," said Dr. Ann Lindsay, Humboldt County Health Officer. "The number-one thing residents can do to protect themselves and their families is to vaccinate their domestic animals. Secondly, residents should notify law enforcement of any animals exhibiting unusual behaviors."

The victim is receiving care at a Sacramento-area hospital. "Our thoughts are with the victim's family during this very difficult time," Lindsay said.

We will likely have additional information available next week.

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Annual Low Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics for 2011

Officials with the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Division are urging pet owners to keep their pets current on their rabies vaccinations. Once again, the Humboldt-Del Norte Veterinary Medical Association is sponsoring low cost rabies vaccination clinics throughout the county. Some animal care facilities provide vaccination clinics year-around. It is important that owners keep their pets current on shots.

Clinics are scheduled the following days and times:

Date	Location	Time
Saturday, May 7 th	Redwood Animal Hospital	10am to 11am
Saturday, May 14 th	Fortuna Veterinary Clinic	10am to noon
Saturday, May 14 th	McKinleyville Animal Care Center	Noon to 1pm
Wednesday, May 18 th	Mattole Grange	10am to noon
Saturday, May 21 st	Ferndale Veterinary	10am to noon
Saturday, May 28 th	Sunny Brae Animal Clinic	9am to 3pm
Saturday, June 4 th	Rio Dell City Hall	9am to 10am
Saturday, June 4 th	Paradise Animal Hospital (Willow Creek)	Noon to 1pm
Saturday, June 4 th	Fortuna Animal Medical Center	11am to noon
Wednesday, June 8 th	Eureka Veterinary Hospital	9am to 11:30am
Saturday, June 11 th	Garberville/Redway Vet. Group	2pm to 3pm
Saturday, June 18 th	Myrtle Avenue Animal Hospital	Noon to 1pm
Saturday, June 25 th	Cutten Animal Health Hospital	9am to noon
Saturday, July 16 th	Arcata Animal Hospital	11am to noon
Saturday, August 13 th	Garberville/Redway Vet. Group	2pm to 3pm
Sunday, August 21 st	Broadway Animal Hospital at Woofstock	10am to 6pm

These clinics will be vaccinating dogs and cats at the cost of **\$6.00** per rabies vaccination.

Within the last year, two dogs from Humboldt and Trinity Counties that were unvaccinated died of rabies. This presents a real threat to people and is preventable through routine vaccinations.

Rabies is always present in the wildlife population and typically found in bats, skunks, and sometimes in wild carnivores such as coyotes or foxes. No matter where they reside, people can protect themselves with the following measures:

1. Avoid contact with wild animals including feral cats. Do not encourage them around your home by feeding them.
2. Report aggressive wild animals and stray animals to local law enforcement.
3. Vaccinate dogs, cats and select livestock against rabies. Keep vaccinations current.
4. Obtain medical care promptly if bitten by any animal.
5. Report bites from domestic animals to county or city animal control and bites from wild animals to Environmental Health.
6. For schools and daycares, add policy and procedures for handling stray or wild animals. Instruct children to keep away and report them to an adult.
7. Dogs need to be vaccinated initially at the age of four months and then revaccinated within one year and thereafter at least once every three years.

Questions about rabies should be directed to the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Division at (707) 445-6215 or toll free at 1-800-963-9241. Report animal bites to the animal control agency for your jurisdiction.

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