

2/13/17

On Monday, the State Laboratory confirmed a positive rabid raccoon in St. Lawrence County.

This particular specimen was struck by a vehicle and collected on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

The USDA submitted the animal. There was no known human or domestic animal contact.

Rabies is a fatal disease that attacks the brain and spinal cord. It can take several weeks to several months for rabies symptoms to appear.

Early treatment after an exposure can prevent rabies in humans and in pets that are up to date on vaccination.

Any mammal can get rabies, but it is most often seen in bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes.

Animals with rabies may be aggressive, sick or unusually friendly.

Public Health urges you to take the following steps to help prevent the spread of rabies:

1. Teach children to stay away from unfamiliar animals, either wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. Remind them to tell you if they have any unusual contact with an animal.
2. Do not leave pet food outside as it attracts wildlife to your home.
3. Wash any wound from an animal encounter thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately.
4. Be a responsible pet owner by keeping your pet's vaccinations current. Getting your pet vaccinated by your vet or at a clinic can help stop the spread of rabies from wild animals to humans. The next rabies vaccination clinic will be February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Massena St. Lawrence Centre Mall from 12-2pm.
5. Monitor your pet when they are outside. If your pet is involved in an altercation with a wild animal, do not get in between them. Do not touch your pet without gloves as rabies is spread through saliva. Cover your pet with a towel and contact your vet as your pet may need a booster shot.

2017 Total

Raccoon- 1