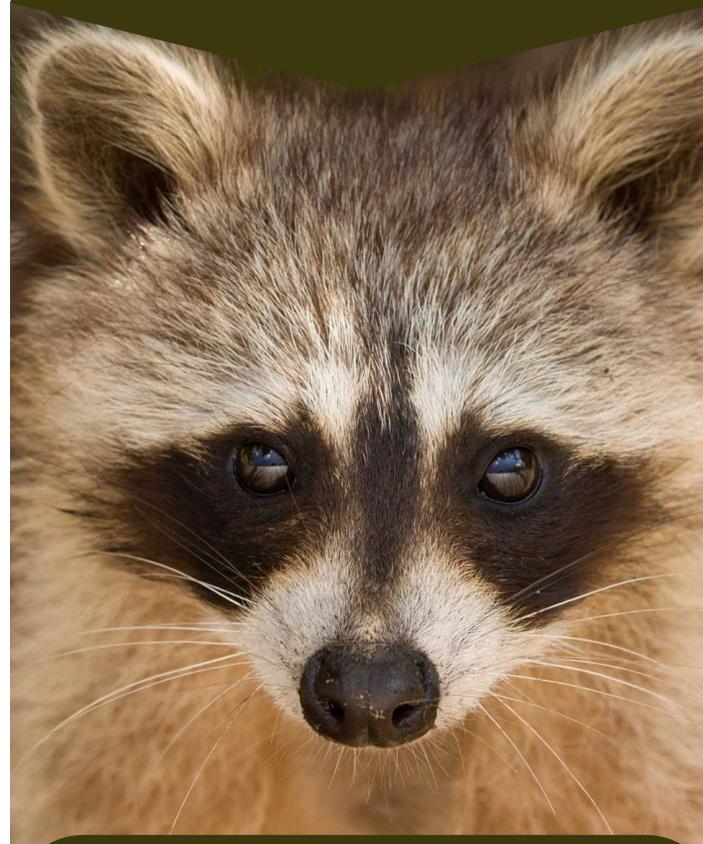


Rabies Informational Brochure



REPORT ALL BITES

All animal bites are to be reported to Anne Arundel County Police at 410-222-8610 or Annapolis City Police at 410-268-9000. All reports are turned over to Animal Care & Control for investigation. If the owner is known, the officer will contact them for rabies vaccination verification and to give instructions.

If the owner is unknown, the officer will ask for certain information to assist in her/his investigation. This information may include breed, description, where the animal was last seen, and the direction that the animal was going. It is important to prevent further contact, bites, or injury. Remember, educate your family on rabies prevention, vaccinate your pets, and contact Animal Care & Control with any questions or concerns about rabies in your community.



WEEKLY RABIES CLINIC

EVERY THURSDAY

(Weather Permitting, No Holidays)

SUMMER HOURS (July-September): 9am-12pm

WINTER HOURS (January-June): 12-3pm

Four times per year clinics are 12-7pm, see website for details

VACCINATION COST : \$5.00

MICROCHIP IMPLANTATION: \$20

ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH AND ALL CATS MUST BE IN A CARRIER

Maryland State Law requires all dogs, cats, and ferrets four months of age and older to be vaccinated against rabies. The length of vaccine effectiveness varies depending on the vaccine used, the species, and the age of the animal. Proof in the form of an up-to-date rabies certificate is a prerequisite for the purchase of an Anne Arundel County Pet License.

Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control is doing its part to help protect all Anne Arundel County pets from the deadly rabies virus. Animal Care & Control holds weekly low cost rabies vaccination clinics.

Pets under three (3) months of age, pregnant or nursing mothers, pets currently under quarantine, and those sick/injured should be seen by a veterinarian before being vaccinated.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART AND VACCINATE YOUR PET!

411 Maxwell Frye Road
Millersville, MD 21108
410-222-8900

www.aacounty.org/pets
Facebook: @AACAnimalCareControl
Twitter: @AACAnimalCareCtrl

**Anne Arundel County
Animal Care & Control**

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RABIES

Rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system of mammals. Pets, livestock, wildlife, and humans may contract the disease. The rabies virus lives in the saliva of the rabid animal. Rabies is most commonly spread through bites from infected animals. The virus can also pass through open wounds, scratches, and membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth, to cause disease.

The rabies virus travels via the nerves from the site of infection to the spinal cord and the brain. The disease can cause convulsions, paralysis, and death. Treatment is effective if given soon after the bite or exposure to a rabid animal.

Once the symptoms of rabies appear, death is almost certain. It usually requires several weeks to several months before signs of the disease appear, after an animal is infected. Near the end of this incubation period, the virus may be present in saliva, and the animal can spread the disease.

A marked change in normal behavior is the most consistent sign of rabies. The two forms of rabies are dumb rabies and furious rabies. In dumb rabies, the animal may appear unusually shy, timid, calm, and approachable. In furious rabies, the animal is excitable, irritable, and aggressive. These animals tend to attack and bite other animals or people, and have no fear of natural enemies.

Other signs to look for include:

- Nocturnal animals active and visible during the day
- Animals have difficulty walking or seemingly disoriented
- Weakness or paralysis
- Inability to eat or drink
- Drooling and foaming at the mouth
- Convulsions

In this area, rabies is most often seen in raccoons, bats, foxes, and skunks. Unvaccinated domestic animals, such as dogs, cats, ferrets, and farm animals, are particularly at risk if they are allowed to roam where they could come into contact with wild or stray animals.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR PETS

IMMUNIZE PETS

Maryland State Law and Anne Arundel County Law requires all cats, dogs, and ferrets, four (4) months of age or older to be vaccinated.

In Maryland, the first rabies vaccination is good for one (1) year. Subsequent vaccinations may last for three (3) years depending on the vaccination administered.

OBSERVE ANIMAL AT LARGE LAWS

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PETS TO ROAM OFF OF YOUR PROPERTY. All owned cats and dogs in Anne Arundel County must be on leash and under the control of a responsible person when not on the owner's property. Not only is this law, but it will help to reduce the possibility of rabies exposure.

AVOID CONTACT WITH WILD ANIMALS

- If your animal has come into contact with a wild or stray animal, avoid direct contact with your pet. Protect yourself by wearing gloves and long sleeves.
- Never approach a wild animal even if it appears friendly.
- If a wild animal is sick or injured, contact Nuisance Wildlife at 1-877-463-6497.
- Never attempt to make a wild animal a pet. This is against the law and exposes humans and pets to rabies.
- To deter wild animals from coming into your yard:
 - ▶ Do not feed wild or stray animals
 - ▶ Do not leave pet food outside unless secured
 - ▶ Secure trash and garbage in cans with lids
 - ▶ Keep doors, windows, chimneys, attics, and other entry points to your home secured against access by animals
 - ▶ Teach your children to never approach a wild or stray animal

ANIMAL BITES

PET EXPOSURE

If your pet has come in contact with a wild or unknown animal, contact your veterinarian and Animal Care & Control. Use gloves while handling your pet after the contact. Your pet may need a rabies booster vaccination.

HUMAN EXPOSURE

If you or a family member are bitten or come in contact with a wild or stray animal:

- CLEAN THE WOUND IMMEDIATELY AND THOROUGHLY and SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- Contact Anne Arundel County Police at 410-222-8610 or, if you are within Annapolis City, Annapolis City Police at 410-268-9000

It is critical to seek prompt medical attention, either from your physician or the Emergency Department at your local hospital. The physician may consult with Animal Care & Control or the Department of Health to determine any treatment that may be necessary.

CAPTURE OR OBSERVE THE ANIMALS UNTIL HELP ARRIVES

If it is safe to do so, attempt to confine any animal (wild or stray) that you or your pet may have come in contact with. If you are unable to confine the animal, if possible and safe, have someone observe the animal until help arrives. If the animal is deceased, do not touch it or allow any other humans/animals to touch it.

ANIMALS WITH OWNERS

If the animal is a pet and you can find the owner, get their name, address, phone number, and rabies vaccination information in writing. If you are unable to get proof of a current rabies vaccination, try to obtain information on where and when the animal last received a vaccination, so that verification can be made through a veterinarian. If the owner is unknown, follow the animal from a safe distance and see if the animal returns home and the owner can be located. Call Animal Care & Control for immediate assistance.

BAT EXPOSURE

Bat bites or exposures should be reported to Animal Care & Control immediately. If you or your family have been exposed to a bat within your home, if possible, attempt to confine the bat and contact Animal Care & Control. Do not let it out of the house. Animal Care & Control will transport the animal for rabies testing.