



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

OCGOV.NET/HEALTH

News Release

Date: March 20, 2024
For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
315-798-5229

Raccoon Tests Positive for Rabies in City of Rome *Oneida County Health Department Urges Residents to Recognize Signs of Rabies*

A raccoon has tested positive for rabies in Rome. The raccoon was sent to the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center for testing on March 18, 2024 and positive results were reported on March 19, 2024. One dog was exposed to this raccoon and received a booster vaccine.

Signs of rabies include:

- Animal acting strangely
- Animal acting mad
- Animal acting shy
- The animal may get unusually close
- Drooling or foaming from the mouth

If you see an animal, wild or stray, do not approach it and stay away. If despite your best efforts you are bit by the animal, or have come into contact with the animal's saliva, seek medical attention and contact the Oneida County Health Department to determine next steps. Rabies is a deadly disease and if you become exposed, it is vital to get appropriate care to avoid contracting rabies.

Per NYS Public Health Law, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated by 4 months-old and then one year following the initial dose. Dogs and cats need to receive a booster dose every three years following. Ferrets must receive booster doses annually.

For the safety of pets and the convenience of county residents, the Oneida County Health Department offers Rabies Vaccination Clinics throughout the year in various community locations with the next one being in Rome. Additional rabies vaccinations clinics have also been scheduled.

- March 25, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Rome Kennedy Arena
- April 25, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Town of Trenton Offices
- June 3, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Annsville Highway Garage
- July 22, 2024 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Garage
- August 19, 2024 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Rome Kennedy Arena

For more information on rabies prevention, visit ocgov.net/rabies. If you have questions or are concerned about a possible rabies exposure, contact the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5064 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

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