

December 28, 2018

Saturday rabies clinics planned in January for dogs, cats and ferrets

MOBILE, Ala. — The Mobile County Health Department provides low cost rabies shots for dogs, cats and ferrets during weekend clinics. Here is a list of the rabies clinics planned for Saturdays during January in Mobile County:

- January 5, 10 a.m. to noon, Mobile County Animal Shelter, 7665 Howell’s Ferry Road
- January 12, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Pet Supplies Plus, 803 Hillcrest Road
- January 19, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., City of Mobile Animal Shelter, 855 Owens Street
- January 26, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., B&B Pet Stop, 5035 Cottage Hill Road

The cost of the rabies vaccine per pet is \$8 at Pet Supplies Plus. The cost of the rabies vaccine per pet is \$10 at Mobile County Animal Shelter, City of Mobile Animal Shelter and B&B Pet Stop. All rabies shots are payable in cash.

Each month, MCHD’s Rabies Officer provides residents with low-cost vaccines for their pet dogs, cats and ferrets at a variety of locations. The state of Alabama tasks local health departments with providing affordable rabies vaccinations to pet owners. A total of 1,940 household pets were vaccinated from January through November by MCHD’s Rabies Officer.

Rabies is a virus that attacks the central nervous system. It is transmitted from infected mammals to humans and is fatal once symptoms appear. Symptoms of rabies include unusual behavior, irritability, headache, fever, inability to eat or drink, balance problems, circling, seizures, coma, and, finally, death. All warm-blooded mammals, including humans, are susceptible to rabies.

Exposure to rabies may be minimized by eliminating all stray cats and dogs; having pet dogs, cats and ferrets vaccinated; staying away from wild animals, especially those acting abnormally; and not keeping exotic or wild animals as pets, health officials said.

So what happens if an animal is displaying symptoms? Under state law, the owners are required to quarantine their animal for 10 days. The quarantine period is necessary for observation of any clinical signs of rabies infection in the animal.

In 2017, the Mobile County Health Department investigated 526 animal bite cases. To learn more about our program, visit <http://mchd.org>, go to “Services,” find “Disease Control” and go to “Rabies Control.”

A Rabies Quarantine Fact Sheet is available through the Alabama Department of Public Health at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/assets/RabiesQuarantineFactSheet.pdf.