

**March 2, 2020**

## **Saturday rabies clinics planned in March for dogs, cats and ferrets**

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

- March 7, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., City of Mobile Animal Shelter, 855 Owens Street
- March 14, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Pet Supplies Plus, 803 Hillcrest Road in Mobile
- March 21, 10 a.m. to noon, Mobile County Animal Shelter, 7665 Howell's Ferry Road in Mobile
- March 28, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., B&B Pet Stop, 5035 Cottage Hill Road in Mobile

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

In addition, Town & County Animal Hospital is hosting a drive-through rabies clinic on March 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This clinic will take place at Semmes Middle School, 4566 Ed George Road. The cost of one-year rabies vaccine per pet is \$10.

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. MCHD's Rabies Officer vaccinated 129 pets during January.

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.

In 2019, the Mobile County Health Department investigated 599 animal bite cases. To learn more about our program, visit <http://mchd.org>, find "Services," find "Disease Control" and select "Rabies Control."

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