

September 3, 2019

Saturday rabies clinics planned in September 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 September in Mobile County:

- September 7, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., City of Mobile Animal Shelter, 855 Owens Street
- September 14, 1:30 to 4 p.m., Pet Supplies Plus, 803 Hillcrest Road in Mobile
- September 21, 8 a.m. to noon, Eddie Smith Country Store, 14045 Celeste Road in Turnerville
- September 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 and Eddie Smith Country Store. The cost per pet is \$10 at 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 pets 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 has vaccinated 1,416 pets from January through June.

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.

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 2018, the Mobile County Health Department investigated 579 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.