



Town of Uxbridge Board of Health

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RABIES POSITIVE RACCOON 2016

RESIDENTS, on 6/1/2016 an obviously sick raccoon was sent to the State Rabies Lab for testing due to interaction with a human. The test came back positive for rabies. At this time we would like to remind you to keep a safe distance between wildlife and humans or pets by following the suggestions listed below.

How can you help prevent rabies in Massachusetts?

- Teach children to never approach animals they don't know – even if they appear friendly.
- Report any animal that behaves oddly to your local animal control official.
- Enjoy wild animals from a distance. Do not keep wild animals as pets. This is against the law in Massachusetts.
- Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies. By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets must be regularly vaccinated against rabies.
- Don't feed or water your pets outside. Even empty bowls will attract wild and stray animals.
- Keep your pets in a fenced yard or on a leash and do not let them roam freely.
- Keep your garbage securely covered. Open garbage will attract wild or stray animals.
- Keep your chimney capped and repair holes in attics, cellars, and porches to help keep wild animals like bats and raccoons out of your home.

Where can you get more information?

- Your doctor, nurse or clinic, or local board of health (listed in the phone book under local government)
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983- 6800 or toll-free at 1-888-658-2850 or on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/rabies
- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health at (617) 626-1810 or on the MDAR website at www.mass.gov/agr