



NEWS:

Steven M. Neuhaus

Orange County Executive

Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM

Commissioner of Health

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Contact: Office of the Orange County Health Commissioner

(845) 291-2332

Free Vaccination Clinic for Pets of Orange County Residents set for March 12

Event to be held at the Town of Wallkill Community Center

Goshen, N.Y. – When it comes to fighting rabies, prevention is essential. This starts with the animal owner.

To safeguard the health of Orange County residents and their pets, the Department of Health in cooperation with the Town of Wallkill will be holding a free animal rabies vaccination clinic on Sunday, March 12. The clinic will be held for Orange County residents from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Town of Wallkill Community Center, which is located at 8 Wes Warren Drive in Middletown.

“Ensuring your family’s pet is properly vaccinated prior to possible exposure is critical to protecting yourself, your pet, and your community from rabies,” said Dr. Eli Avila, Orange County’s Commissioner of Health. “When the family dog or cat is unvaccinated and exposed to rabies it can threaten the lives of all family members.”

Pre-registration for the clinic is recommended. To pre-register your pet for the upcoming clinic, call the Town of Wallkill Clerk at 692-7826. The clinic is open to cats, dogs and ferrets of Orange County residents only. All pets must be restrained by leash or carrier and proof of prior vaccination should be brought to the clinic for the three-year shot. Please be aware that ferret shots are only good for one year.

In addition to keeping vaccinations current, Dr. Avila offers some easy-to-follow tips to protect against rabies.

- **NEVER** touch unfamiliar or wild animals.
- **AVOID** direct contact with stray animals. Stray cats, kittens, dogs, and puppies may not have been vaccinated against rabies.

- If you are bitten, wash bite wounds with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately.
- If your pet is bitten, consult your veterinarian immediately.
- **NEVER** adopt wild animals including cats, kittens, dogs, and puppies or bring them into your home.
- **DO NOT** attempt to nurse sick or injured wild animals back to health. Call an animal control person or an animal rescue group so they can take care of the animal safely.
- Make sure your trash cans are secure and do not leave pet food out. You do not want to attract wild animals to your home.

Prompt and appropriate treatment after being bitten and before the disease develops can stop rabies infection and/or prevent the disease in humans and animals.

“Getting your pets vaccinated is the best way to protect your pets and family from rabies,” Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus said. “I’m glad that the county can provide this free service to our residents and I encourage pet owners to take advantage of it.”

For more information regarding rabies, please call the Orange County Department of Health Environmental Division at 291-2331.

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