

## **Raccoon Tests Positive for Rabies Recorded Information Line - 01/14/05**

A raccoon that chased a dog into its owner's home in the Town of Triangle on January 7, 2005 tested positive for rabies today. There was no actual contact between the dog and the raccoon. The dog was current on its rabies vaccine.

The dog's owner killed the raccoon. Both the owner and another family member were in contact with the dead raccoon and will undergo post-exposure rabies treatment. Pet owners should **always** wear thick gloves when touching a pet that has been in an altercation with a wild animal. Further, pet owners should **always** wash their hands, even if wearing gloves, and any wounds immediately after contact with the pet or the wild animal.

Residents are reminded to avoid direct contact with unfamiliar or wild animals and to never bring them into your home. Protect your pet(s) by never allowing them to roam free. Consider keeping them indoors at night and make sure they get a rabies vaccination. Rabies vaccination is mandatory by Public Health Law for dogs, cats and ferrets once they are four months old. If an unvaccinated pet is exposed to rabies, the owner may either have the animal euthanized or confine it to a cage for six months.

If you are bitten, scratched or have contact with an animal you believe to be rabid, immediately wash the wound, seek medical attention, and report the incident to the Broome County Health Department at 778-2887. After normal business hours, residents with urgent inquiries can call Broome County Emergency Dispatch at 778-1911. A dispatcher will then contact Health Department staff for you.

Residents who have not had their dogs, cats or domesticated ferrets vaccinated are encouraged to make an appointment with a veterinarian or attend one of the Broome County sponsored clinics. The first rabies clinic for 2005 will be held on Saturday, February 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Town of Chenango Fire Station, 1135 Front Street, Binghamton. Vaccinations are available at no cost. A \$5.00 donation is requested but not required. All animals must be at least three-months-old and under the control of the owner at the clinic. **Animal owners must bring a Certificate of Immunization to the clinic for animals immunized previously.**

Please watch the newspaper or go to the Broome County Government website at [www.gobroomecounty.com](http://www.gobroomecounty.com) in February for the complete 2005 rabies clinic schedule.

For more information about rabies, call the Broome County Health Department information line at (607) 778-3911, Option 4, or visit our web site at [www.gobroomecounty.com/safety](http://www.gobroomecounty.com/safety) and follow links for Rabies Information.