RABIES ADVISORY NOTICE

Rabies is a fatal disease of warm-blooded mammals caused by a virus, most frequently spread through a bite from an infected animal. Bites are the main routes of transmission, because a diseased animal has the rabies virus in its saliva and will frequently bite other animals.

This notice is being provided to you because you are the owner of a dog, cat, or other domestic pet which has suffered a wound of unknown origin suspected to be a bite wound possibly caused by a rabid animal, or because your pet has been near or in the same area as a known or suspect rabid animal.

You are advised to notify your local health department and to seek the advice of a veterinarian if your pet begins to show any of the following symptoms during the period of observation: fever, loss of appetite, excessive irritability, unusual vocalization, change in behavior, restlessness, jumping at noises, trouble walking, excess salivation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, stupors, or unprovoked aggression.

Rabies usually begins subtly, with pet owners first noticing that their animal goes off its food and “doesn’t seem right.” The animal may then become restless and irritable, have a “strange look in its eyes,” and make funny-sounding cries and barks. As the illness progresses, nervous system impairment becomes more obvious with tremors, difficulty walking, swallowing, and possibly even convulsions and/or paralysis. Affected animals may or may not show signs of aggression and try to bite.

Separate your animal from other animals and humans at the first signs of illness and contact your veterinarian or local health department.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact your local health department.