

Public Health Advisory

Increase in fox sightings in Iqaluit

November 26, 2021
Iqaluit, Nunavut

The Department of Health would like to notify residents of Iqaluit that there has been a significant increase in fox sightings in the city. Recently, a fox tested positive for rabies after attacking sled dogs. Rabies is a danger to humans and animals and residents are advised to be on the lookout for foxes in their area.

If you see a fox or wolf wandering around the community, or if your dog had contact with a fox or wolf, call the Regional Environmental Health Officer at 867-975-1163 and the Conservation Officer at 867-975-7780 or Iqaluit City Dispatch at 979-5650.

If you have been bitten or scratched by a fox or a dog, go to the health centre and report the incident **immediately**. Treatment must be started quickly. If you see an animal behaving strangely, staggering, frothing at the mouth, choking or making strange noises, avoid the animal and report it to the Conservation Officer.

A fox that is sick may appear friendly. Children should not play with foxes or other wildlife. Keep domestic animals tied up when they are outside and monitor them for a change in behaviour and signs of rabies.

In Nunavut, rabies is commonly found in foxes and wolves and can spread to dogs when they are bitten by a rabid fox or wolf. Rabies can be passed onto people when an infected animal bites, scratches or licks them. A person can also get rabies when handling or skinning infected animals if they have cuts on their skin.

###

Media Contact:

Danarae Sommerville
Communications Specialist
Department of Health
867-975-5712
dsommerville1@gov.nu.ca

News releases are available in Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and French on www.gov.nu.ca.
Tuhagtaghat itut Inuktitut, Qablunaatitut, Inuinnaqtun Uiviititullu talvani www.gov.nu.ca.
Les communiqués de presse sont disponibles en inuktitut, en anglais, en inuinnaqtun et en français au www.gov.nu.ca.