

Public Health Advisory

Reminder for trick or treaters: Foxes in Iqaluit

October 29, 2021

Iqaluit, Nunavut

The Department of Health would like to remind residents of Iqaluit that there has been a significant increase in fox sightings in the community recently. With Halloween approaching, it is important for adults and children to practise caution while trick or treating.

If you have been bitten or scratched by a fox or a dog, go to the hospital 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 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.

Rabies is commonly found in foxes and wolves in Nunavut 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.

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 or after-hours Iqaluit City Dispatch on call line at 867-979-5650.

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Media Contact:

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

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