

Public Health Advisory

Department of Health investigating fox attacks

April 1, 2022

Iqaluit, Nunavut

The Department of Health is reminding residents of Iqaluit to keep a close eye on their dogs and not to let them roam freely after two reports of foxes attacking dogs in the city.

To report an animal running at large, please contact the City of Iqaluit Dispatch at 979-5650. To report wildlife within the community, please contact the Conservation Officer at 867-975-7780.

If your dog had contact with a fox, call the Regional Environmental Health Officer at 867-975-4817 or after working hours 867-975-5772.

If you have been bitten or scratched by a fox or a dog, go to Qikiqtani General 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 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 can spread to dogs when they are bitten by a rabid wildlife. 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.

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Media Contact:

Danarae Sommerville
Communications Specialist
Department of Health
867-975-5712

dsommerville1@gov.nu.ca

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