

Public Service Announcement

World Rabies Day 2024

Start Date: September 27, 2024 End Date: September 28, 2024 Nunavut-wide

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The Department of Health invites Nunavummiut to recognize World Rabies Day on September 28, 2024. This year's theme, "*Breaking Rabies Boundaries*", includes goals to work across sectors and increase public awareness.

The greatest risk of human exposure to rabies in Nunavut comes from dogs and foxes. Rabies is a deadly but preventable virus. It can infect animals and humans. Warmblooded animals (such as foxes, wolves, and dogs) can carry rabies. The virus is transmitted when an infected animal bites, scratches or licks an open wound.

A vaccine administered by a health care professional soon after an animal bite can prevent rabies and save your life.

To stay safe and combat rabies:

- Contact the health centre immediately if bitten or scratched by an animal.
- Steer clear of stray dogs.
- Always supervise children around animals.
- Vaccinate your pet regularly.
- Keep your pets tied on a leash or chain when outside.

If you have concerns about a rabid or wild animal, contact your local Conservation Officer. If your dog is bitten by an animal, call your regional Environmental Health Officer or Local Bylaw Officer for instructions.

Regional Environmental Health Officer contact numbers:

- Kivalliq region: 1-867-645-6660.
- Kitikmeot region: 1-867-975-1163.
- Qikiqtaaluk region: 1-867-222-0163.

Media Contact:

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