



MEDIA ADVISORY

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

Annual rabies vaccination clinics start Saturday

- Who:** Knox County Health Department and the Knoxville Veterinarian Medical Association
- What:** Rabies vaccinations for dogs and cats 3 months of age and older; \$10 per animal
- When:** 2 - 4:30 p.m.; Saturdays, May 6 and 13
- Where:** KCHD Environmental Health Director Ronnie Nease will be at the KCHD location, 140 Dameron Ave., on May 6 and will be available for interviews.

May 6, 2017

Bearden High School
Carter High School
Gibbs High School
Farragut High School
Halls High School
Knox County Health Department (Dameron Ave.)
Powell High School
South-Doyle High School (Young Campus)

May 13, 2017

Bearden High School
Carter High School
Farragut High School
Halls High School
Knox County Health Department (Dameron Ave.)
Powell High School
South-Doyle High School (Young Campus)

Background:

At the vaccination clinics, all pets must be restrained. Dogs should be on a leash, and cats should be in carriers or pillowcases (a pillowcase is preferred because the vaccine can be administered through the cloth). People with aggressive or uncontrollable dogs are advised to leave the pet in the car and ask for assistance at registration.

Tennessee and Knox County laws require all dogs and cats 3 months of age and older to be vaccinated against rabies, a virus that attacks the brain and spinal column. If untreated, death can occur within days of the onset of symptoms. The best way to prevent rabies is to vaccinate pets and avoid contact with stray or wild animals. It's also important to vaccinate indoor pets, who can accidentally encounter wild animals such as bats or raccoons.

People who suspect they may have come into contact with the rabies virus, either through a bite or saliva from an infected animal, should immediately wash the area for at least five minutes with soap and water. They should then seek medical care and treatment guidance from a health care professional. For more information about rabies, visit www.cdc.gov/rabies/.

For more information, contact Katharine Killen at 865-215-5534 (office) or 865-755-1121 (cell).

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