



# MEDIA RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katharine Killen  
865-215-5534 office  
865-755-1121 cell

April 26, 2017

## **Annual rabies vaccination clinics take place May 6 and 13**

*Knoxville, Tenn.* — The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) and the Knoxville Veterinarian Medical Association will once again offer rabies vaccinations for \$10 per animal from **2 to 4:30 p.m. on May 6 and 13**. New this year, the clinics will take place at select Knox County high schools and the Knox County Health Department’s main location, 140 Dameron Ave.

“We encourage everyone to take the time to protect their family by vaccinating pets against rabies,” said KCHD Environmental Health Director Ronnie Nease. “In 2016, the Tennessee Department of Health confirmed rabies in several pet dogs and cats, which is very concerning not only because unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated pets can die from this virus, but because they can also infect other animals and endanger people.”

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). Those with aggressive or uncontrollable dogs are advised to leave the pet in the car and ask for assistance at registration.

### **Rabies Vaccination Clinic Locations:**

#### **May 6, 2017**

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

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/](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/).

**About Knox County Health Department:**

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to making every person a healthy person. As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, KCHD's mission is to encourage, promote and assure the development of an active, healthy community through innovative public health practices. The organization conducts disease surveillance, prevention and control; emergency preparedness; nutrition and physical activity promotion; tobacco use prevention; health equity promotion; immunizations; and much more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

###

