



MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April 24, 2019

Annual rabies vaccination clinics scheduled for May 4 and 11

Knoxville, Tenn. — The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) and the Knoxville Veterinary Medical Association will once again offer rabies vaccinations for cats and dogs on **Saturdays, May 4 and 11 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.** at select Knox County schools and the Knox County Health Department, 140 Dameron Ave.

“Though rabies is rare among humans and domesticated animals in the U.S., it’s still a deadly virus,” said KCHD Environmental Health Director Ronnie Nease. “We encourage everyone to take the time to protect their family by vaccinating pets against rabies.”

Vaccinations at the May clinics are \$10 per animal. All pets must be restrained at the clinics. 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 pets are advised to leave the animal in the car and ask for assistance at registration. More information is available at knoxcounty.org/health.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic locations for both May 4 and 11:

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

Tennessee, Knox County and City of Knoxville 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 as they 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/.

About Knox County Health Department

As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. KCHD investigates disease outbreaks, identifies community health threats, conducts extensive outreach and education, prepares for public health emergencies, provides and connects the public with medical care, enforces food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

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