



## St. Mary's County Health Department

### NEWS RELEASE

[www.smchd.org](http://www.smchd.org)

William B. Icenhower, MD, MPH, Health Officer  
21580 Peabody Street,  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

**Contact:** Karen Everett  
**Date:** July 9, 2010

**Telephone:** 301-475-4200, x1342

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### REMEMBER RABIES PREVENTION THIS SUMMER

The St. Mary's County Health Department urges residents to practice rabies protection this summer and throughout the year by vaccinating their pets and avoiding contact with wild animals that display unusual or aggressive behavior.

Eight animals have tested positive for rabies since January 1, 2010: three raccoon, three skunk, and two foxes. Two recent and unrelated cases involved unprovoked bites by foxes to humans. These incidents occurred in Mechanicsville near Bryan Court and Laurel Grove Road and in Lexington Park near Far Cry Road. In both of those cases the foxes tested positive for rabies.

Vaccination of pets is a first line of defense against rabies. Pet owners are encouraged to review the shot records of their pets with a veterinarian. The St. Mary's Animal Welfare League holds rabies vaccine clinics on the second Monday of each month from March to November; the next clinic is scheduled for Monday, July 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's County Fairgrounds in Leonardtown. The cost is \$10 per pet vaccinated.

To report a bite by any animal, call Tony Malaspina, Animal Control, 301-475-8018 during working hours; at other times, contact the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office at 301-475-8008.

###