



## St. Mary's County Health Department

### NEWS RELEASE

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

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#### **RABIES VACCINES RECOMMENDED FOR HORSES**

St. Mary's Animal Welfare League Rabies Clinics will offer vaccines

LEONARDTOWN, MD (June 12, 2006) – St. Mary's County Health Department encourages horse owners in the county to have their horses vaccinated against the threat of rabies. The continued prevalence of rabies cases in the St. Mary's County area gives clear indication of the need to protect both domestic animals and livestock from being infected.

The St. Mary's County Animal Welfare League holds rabies vaccine clinics from 6 – 8 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at the St. Mary's County Fairground in Leonardtown near the 4-H Building. Beginning this month, veterinarians from Tidewater Veterinary Hospital in Charlotte Hall will provide horse vaccines in addition to vaccines for cats, dogs and ferrets.

Horses that arrive in trailers will not need to be off-loaded. A vet will administer the vaccine at the vehicle. Vaccines for horses cost \$15. After initial vaccine, annual boosters are recommended.

The dates for the remaining 2006 Rabies Clinic are:

(more)

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June 12

July 10

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

Animal owners are requested to bring cats and ferrets to the clinic(s) in a pet carrier. Dogs must be kept on a short leash or in a carrier. Any animal with aggressive tendencies must be muzzled or remain in their owner's vehicle. A veterinarian will come to the vehicle to administer the vaccine. The cost is \$10 per shot.

Proof of prior vaccination is required for pets to receive a three-year immunization. All others will receive a vaccine good for one year.

For more information call 301-373-5659.

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