



## St. Mary's County Health Department NEWS RELEASE

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### HEALTH DEPARTMENT REMINDS PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR PETS FROM RABIES THREAT

LEONARDTOWN, MD (September 26, 2005) – The St. Mary's County Health Department is reminding residents to practice rabies protection this fall by vaccinating their pets and avoiding animals that display unusual or aggressive behavior near their homes.

“The moderating temperatures we are enjoying right now are increasing the likelihood of human contact with animals, and people need to be reminded of the risk of approaching unknown animals, including domesticated pets,” said Ann Rose, environmental health services supervisor with the rabies prevention program.

The health department is reminding residents throughout the county to do the following:

- For the protection of you, your family, and your neighbors, be sure your pet is vaccinated, collared and tagged.
- Do not approach unknown animals.

(more)

*Rabies prevention reminder, p. 2*

- Report bites and scratches by any animal to the St. Mary's Co. Sheriff's office at 301-475-8008.

The Animal Welfare League will offer two more rabies vaccine clinics this year. The next clinic is October 9, 6-8 p.m. at the St. Mary's County Fairground in Leonardtown near the 4-H Building. The cost is \$10 per shot. For more information call 301-373-5659.

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