



# KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



WILLIAM WEBB, HEALTH OFFICER

COUNTY OF KENT

125 S. LYNCHBURG STREET, CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620 • 410-778-1350

STATE OF MARYLAND

## Public Service Announcement

### **POSITIVE RABID ANIMAL**

On 07/02/2021, the Kent County Health Department was notified of a fox that approached and bit two people in the Tolchester Community. The animal was captured and subsequently tested for rabies. On 07/06/2021, the State of Maryland Department of Health Laboratories Administration confirmed the status of the fox as POSITIVE.

We are reaching out to the community to inquire if anyone may have come into contact with this animal between the dates of 06/18/2021 through 07/02/2021. If you feel that you or your pet had contact with this animal during that time period, or if you witnessed a fox acting strangely, please contact the Kent County Health Department at 410-778-1361.

Rabies is a viral disease that affects mammals and can be spread from animals to humans through a bite or scratch or contact with the saliva of a rabid animal. Rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear, but is preventable with timely and appropriate treatment. In Maryland, rabies is most frequently found in wildlife, most commonly raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats. Domestic animals, including livestock, are also at risk, and cats are the most frequently identified rabid domestic animal.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Kent County Health Department at 410-778-1361.

### **Remember these Steps to Prevent Rabies Exposure**

- Do not approach, handle, or feed wild or stray animals.
- Have your dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated against rabies and keep the vaccinations up to date.
- Do not leave pets outside unattended or allow them to roam free.
- Cover garbage cans tightly and do not leave pet food outside; this may attract wild and stray animals.
- Teach children to stay away from wild animals or animals they do not know.
- Prevent bats from entering your home by using window screens and chimney caps and by closing any openings greater than ¼ inch by ½ inch. Bats found in the home should be safely collected, if possible, and tested for rabies.
- Wear gloves when handling an animal if it has been in a fight with another animal. Keep it away from people and other animals and call your veterinarian or local health department to report the animal exposure.