



ANIMAL CONTROL SEEKING TO CAPTURE FOX IN ATTACKS

MontgomeryCountyVA.gov

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Montgomery County, Virginia – Montgomery County Animal Control and Montgomery County Health Department are investigating two recent fox attacks around Cedar Orchard off Clay Street just outside of Blacksburg. Animal Control is currently trying to capture the fox involved in the attacks.

Area residents are reminded of the potential risk of rabies and asked to be vigilant while outdoors over the next several days. These unprovoked attacks occurred during daylight hours. Unprovoked attacks are uncommon in healthy animals, prompting concerns that the fox may be potentially rabid. Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. It kills almost any mammal that has not been vaccinated for rabies. It is also fatal in humans unless they receive treatment.

The rabies virus is mainly in the saliva and brain of rabid animals. It can be transmitted through a bite or by getting saliva or brain tissue in a wound; rarely by getting virus in the eye or mouth.

Dogs, cats, skunks, bats, foxes, raccoons and some farm animals are most likely to get rabies. Rabbits, squirrels, rats and mice, and small pets such as gerbils and hamsters seldom get it. Birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians do not.

Rabies can be prevented in cats, dogs, ferrets and some livestock with a rabies vaccination, which is required by state law for these animals once they reach four months of age.

Rabies also can be prevented by:

- Avoiding contact with stray, unknown or wild animals.
- Keeping your pet on your own property or on a leash while walking. Do not allow it run at large.
- Not leaving food and water outside unattended on your property. These can attract wild or stray animals.

Pet owners are also reminded to keep their animals up to date on their vaccinations.

If you are bitten by a wild or stray animal, wash the wound thoroughly with warm soap and water and contact your private physician and the health department immediately.

Anyone who sees a fox in this neighborhood is asked to contact the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, non-emergency number at 540-382-6900.

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