

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

MCHD HEALTH BLOG

The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



ANIMAL BITES AND RABIES PREVENTION

Did you know our environmental health staff does rabies investigation and prevention activities? Our staff investigates animal bites, has the authority to quarantine animals and has the ability to send specimens to the Ohio Department of Health's Public Health Laboratory. These investigations help protect our residents. When a person or pet is bitten by an animal, regardless of whether it's a pet or wild animal, the bite needs to be reported to the local health department where the bite occurred. In Morgan County, that is the Morgan County Health Department (MCHD). Bites from animals can spread rabies or other infections, so prompt reporting allows public health to take preventative measures and make recommendations.

Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease. It can spread to people and pets if they are bitten or scratched by a rabid animal. In the United States, rabies is mostly found in wild animals like bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Rabies can be prevented by vaccinating pets, staying away from wildlife, and seeking medical care before symptoms start after potential exposures.

Keeping your pets up to date on their rabies vaccination will prevent them from getting the disease from wildlife, and thereby prevent possible transmission to your family or other people. MCHD will be hosting a Rabies Vaccination Clinic in the upper carport area of our building on Saturday, September 16, 2023. The clinic will be in operation from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. MCHD is located at 4275 N. State Route 376 NW in McConnelsville. John Groah DVM will be administering the vaccine. The cost of the vaccine is \$8 cash. Please bring your dogs on a leash and your cats in a cage/carrier.

If your dog or cat is not up to date on their rabies vaccination, please take time on Saturday, September 16 to provide this protection for your pet. The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.