



## St. Lawrence County Public Health Department

Dana Olzenak McGuire, PT, PhD ▪ Public Health Director  
80 State Highway 310, Suite 2 ▪ Canton, New York 13617-1476  
Phone: (315) 386-2325 ▪ Fax: (315) 386-2203

### Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: 315-386-2325

### Upcoming Free Rabies Clinics

**Canton, NY**— The St. Lawrence County Public Health Department would like to inform residents of the upcoming free rabies clinics and the changes to the clinics due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every dog, cat, and ferret 3 months or older is required to be vaccinated—this includes pets who normally do not go outside. Due to COVID-19, mask wearing and social distancing is required to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Please follow the new clinic directions to keep volunteers, yourself, and our community safe:

- **Pre-register online.** Online pre-registration is **required** for each clinic, **walk-ins will not be accepted.** The pre-registration links can be found on the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department webpage: <https://www.stlawco.org/Departments/PublicHealth/> Pre-registration links are available 7 days prior to the upcoming clinic.
- **Follow signs and instructions.** When pulling into the parking lot you will be directed to park in a designated spot or progress in line. Please follow instructions from clinic volunteers.
- **Remain in your car.** Please do not get out of your car until instructed to do so.
- **Wear a mask.** Please put your mask on once you have parked and wait for further instruction from a volunteer.
- **Know your appointment time.** Upon entering or once parked, a volunteer will approach your car to verify your name, your pet's name, appointment time, and previous rabies certificate.
- **Wait for instructions.** Once your appointment has been verified, please wait for further instruction from a volunteer.
- **Put your pet on a leash or in a carrier.** Sanitize leashes and carriers after returning home from the clinic.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, the Gouverneur Town Offices held the first free rabies clinic for St. Lawrence County since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. They followed all of the above guidelines and had a successful and safe clinic. Gouverneur Town Clerk, Marion Bowhall stated that “the process ran very smoothly and all attendees complied with the mask wearing and social distancing guidelines.” The clinic vaccinated over 70 pets.

The following clinics are taking place in August:

- August 13<sup>th</sup> - Fowler Town Barn 6pm – 8pm — **pre-registration link is now open!**
- August 18<sup>th</sup> – Canton Human Services Building from 5pm – 7pm — **link will open August 11<sup>th</sup>**
- August 31<sup>st</sup> – Tri Town Arena from 6pm – 8pm

If you need assistance with the pre-registration process for the first two clinics, please call the Fowler Town Clerk at 315-854-5517 or the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department at 315-386-2325.

Rabies is a preventable viral disease if your pet is up to date on their rabies vaccine. Any animal bitten or scratched by either a wild, carnivorous mammal or a bat can transmit rabies. The rabies vaccine will protect your pet for three years. Dogs and cats receiving their first rabies vaccine will need a booster in one year. Please bring a CURRENT RABIES CERTIFICATE (not your rabies tag) if you have one, as this is the proof of vaccination.

Thank you for keeping your pet protected against rabies! For more information or questions about the online pre-registration process, please call the St. Lawrence County Public Health Department at 315-386-2325. The pre-registration links can be found on our website at:

<https://www.stlawco.org/Departments/PublicHealth/>

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