



MONMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION #1
1540 West Park Avenue, Suite 1, Ocean, NJ 07712
Telephone (732) 493-9520 Facsimile (732) 493-9521
www.mcrhc.org



RABID FOX ADVISORY

June 15, 2015

Please be advised that a fox sent to the New Jersey Department of Health for rabies examination has tested positive for the rabies virus.

This fox attacked and bit a pet dog in the vicinity of West Lincoln Avenue in the Oakhurst section of the Township of Ocean on June 7, 2015. The fox was retrieved by animal control and submitted for testing, with results received on June 11, 2015.

Because rabies is fatal once symptoms develop, the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission #1 is asking all residents to take the following precautions to prevent rabies:

- **Vaccinate your pets against rabies, and make sure that that they receive their rabies booster(s) on time;**
- **Do not leave pet food outdoors, as it will attract wildlife and they will become adapted to residential environments;**
- **Keep your pets inside at night, when fox and other wildlife (such as raccoons, skunks, bats and coyotes) are more active;**
- **Keep dogs within your sight in a fenced yard during the day while outside, or walk on a leash;**
- **Keep all trash and garbage in tightly closed containers;**
- **If you believe your pet has been exposed to a wild animal, contact your veterinarian promptly;**
- **If you or a family member is bitten or scratched by a wild or unknown animal, contact your physician right away. Post-exposure vaccination is 100% effective in preventing rabies when administered in a timely manner.**

How to recognize potentially rabid wildlife:

- **Both red and gray fox normally hunt during twilight, evening or nighttime. They may be seen outside during the day (especially if foraging for food for their pups), which is cause for alarm only if they appear sick or diseased, are acting abnormally, or are unafraid of humans;**
- **The presence of rabies in all wildlife may be indicated by unprovoked aggression, impaired movement, paralysis, lack of coordination, unusually friendly behavior, and/or disorientation.**
- **Contact the police department immediately if you recognize these signs.**