

October 14, 2015

LOW-COST RABIES VACCINATIONS AT BAKER COMMUNITY CENTER ON OCTOBER 22, 2015



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Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. — The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) and the Panhandle Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) are partnering to offer \$5 rabies vaccinations on Thursday, October 22, 2015, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. The clinic will be located at Baker Community Center at 5503 Highway 4 in Baker, Florida. Microchips will also be available for \$15. All animals must be on a leash or in a pet carrier.

“A special thank you to PAWS and their veterinarians for partnering with us,” stated Dr. Karen A. Chapman, Director of DOH-Okaloosa. “This is a community effort to bring pet owners into compliance with the law, while providing protection against a deadly disease that continues to cause public health concerns.”

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can be prevented but not cured. The virus attacks the brain of warm-blooded animals, including people. Even if you consider your dog, cat, or ferret to be an indoor pet, it is important that your pet receive a rabies vaccination.

In 2014, DOH-Okaloosa investigated 892 domestic animal (dogs or cats) bites or scratches to other domestic animals or humans. Of those investigated, only 50% were current on their rabies vaccination. The only acceptable proof of vaccination for an animal bite investigation is documentation of the vaccination from a licensed veterinarian.

For more information on this \$5 rabies vaccination event, visit www.HealthyOkaloosa.com or call (850) 689-7859.

About the Florida Department of Health

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