

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 08, 2015

Contact: Ryan Mims
(850) 833-9240 ext. 2162
Cell: (850) 420-2198

LOW-COST RABIES VACCINATIONS ON May 16, 2015

OKALOOSA COUNTY – The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County and the Miracle Strip Veterinary Medical Society have partnered to offer low-cost rabies vaccinations Saturday, May 16th, from 8 am – 12 pm. Five local veterinary clinics will offer \$10 walk-in rabies vaccinations to dogs, cats, and ferrets. It is not necessary to be an existing client at any of the participating offices to take part in the low-cost vaccinations. At the clinics, all animals must be on a leash or in a pet carrier.

- **Crossroads Animal Clinic**
601 B Eglin Pkwy NE, Fort Walton Beach
- **Emerald Coast Animal Hospital**
350 E Miracle Strip Pkwy, Mary Esther
- **Friendship Veterinary Hospital**
623 Beal Pkwy NW, Ft Walton Beach
- **Northside Veterinary Clinic**
18 Racetrack Rd NE, Ft Walton Beach
- **Southside Veterinary Clinic**
821 S Pearl St, Crestview

“A special thank you to Dr. Kelly Haeusler and the Miracle Strip Veterinary Medical Society for partnering with us for the event,” said Dr. Karen Chapman, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County. “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 receives a rabies vaccination.

In 2014, the Health Department 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.

The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](https://twitter.com/HealthyFla) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HealthyFla). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>.

###

Florida Department of Health
in OKALOOSA COUNTY
221 Hospital Dr. NE, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32548
PHONE: 850/833-9240 • FAX 850/833-9252
www.healthyokaloosa.com

www.FloridaHealth.gov
TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fidoh
FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla