

June 2, 2016

LOW-COST RABIES VACCINATIONS ON JUNE 4, 2016



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Okaloosa County, Fla — The Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa) and the Miracle Strip Veterinary Medical Society have partnered to offer low-cost rabies vaccinations on Saturday, June 4, from 8 am until 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
- **Friendship Veterinary Hospital**
623 Beal Pkwy NW, Ft Walton Beach
- **Murphy Veterinary Hospital**
2387 Highway 98 W, Mary Esther
- **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 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 receives a rabies vaccination.

In 2015, DOH-Okaloosa investigated 1000 domestic animal (dogs or cats) bites or scratches to other domestic animals or humans. Of those investigated, approximately 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 \$10 rabies vaccination event, visit www.HealthyOkaloosa.com or call 850-689-7859.

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