

JosephineCounty, Oregon

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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FIRST POSITIVE RABIES CASE THIS SEASON FOUND IN KERBY

Grants Pass, OR: Oregon State University, Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory, has confirmed rabies in a fox that was found acting peculiarly in Kerby, Oregon on August 2, 2012. This is a reminder to stay away from strange animals, especially those that may be sick, flopping around, or acting otherwise unusually. Most human exposures to rabies occur because someone decided to interact with an obviously sick animal.

Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system and is almost always caused by exposure to a rabid animal. Exposure is usually through a bite but can also occur through scratches and saliva contact with broken skin. It is almost always fatal once symptoms begin. Vaccinating pets against rabies protects them and provides a buffer zone between humans and rabid wild animals.

If you do have an exposure (e.g., scratch or bite), immediately clean the wound. If the animal that bit a person has been captured, take it to a licensed veterinarian or the County Animal Control Department to send it for testing for rabies, which can avoid post exposure rabies shots.

For further information contact:

Cat Metz, Josephine County Communicable Disease Nurse: 541-474-2225 or

Dr. Emilio DeBess, Oregon Public Health Division: 503-830-3131

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