

Pomperaug District Department of Health

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For Immediate Release

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POMPERAUG HEALTH DISTRICT, SOUTHBURY ANIMAL CONTROL, and SOUTHBURY VETERINARY HOSPITAL WILL CO-SPONSOR RABIES CLINIC IN SOUTHBURY

The Pomperaug District Department of Health, Southbury Animal Control and Southbury Veterinary Hospital are working together to provide a low cost rabies clinic for dogs and cats. The clinic will be held on Sunday, June 6 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Southbury Town Garage on Peter Road. The clinic will be held **at the Southbury Town Garage on Peter Road**. The cost is \$15.00 CASH ONLY per animal. There are no residency requirements. Dogs must be on a leash and cats must be in carriers. Cats on leashes will not be accepted. Collar tags and certificates will be provided as required by law. Doctor Joseph Ross of Southbury Veterinary Hospital will be donating his services and the vaccine for this event. All proceeds will be donated to local charities.

Connecticut law requires that all dogs and cats 3 months of age or older be vaccinated against rabies. Written proof of prior vaccination for rabies must be presented to qualify for a three-year certificate. Tags are not acceptable proof. A one-year certificate will be given to all others. This is in compliance with the directive of the State Veterinarian. State Law requires that all pets vaccinated for the first time in 2009 must be re-vaccinated within 1 year. Check your pets' rabies vaccination certificate for the expiration date.

The Southbury Animal Control Officer advises that if people have pets that are due for their rabies shots soon after this clinic, to come to the clinic anyway. It is safe for animals to receive the shot a little earlier than scheduled, and by getting the booster a little early, it will ensure that the rabies vaccine does not lapse in case the owners forget to schedule an appointment. Also, the clinic offers the vaccine at a low cost.

In Connecticut, rabies is endemic in the wildlife population. In recent months, there has been an increased incidence of rabid raccoons in the vicinity of North Georges Hill Road and Peter Road in Southbury. Dogs and cats provide a link between wildlife rabies and humans. Vaccinating dogs and cats against rabies provides a buffer between wildlife rabies and people.