



## Rocky Hill Board of Health Community News

**REMINDER:** Dog and cat licenses must to be renewed in April with vaccination certificate good through 11/08. It's the law. Protect your pet and your community! Applications are available under FORMS on this website.

### **RABIES FACTS**

Rabies has been present in terrestrial (land-dwelling) animals in New Jersey since 1989. Before that, bats were the only mammal harboring Rabies in our state and continue to be carriers.

**Rabies is a deadly disease** which can affect all mammals, including people. It is caused by a virus found in the saliva of infected animals and is mainly transmitted through bite wounds. It can also be spread through contact of infected saliva with even minor open wounds which may be present on your skin (or your pet's skin). Unless it is promptly treated, Rabies invades the nervous system and leads to death.

**Rabies is present in wildlife in New Jersey** especially in groundhogs, raccoons, skunks and foxes. It has also been seen in coyotes. In Somerset County in the first 9 months of 2007, there were 15 cases reported in raccoons.

**Cats have accounted for almost 90% of Rabies cases in domestic animals in New Jersey since 1989.** For the last 5 years there has been an average of 17 cat cases a year in the state.

**You can prevent Rabies in your pet cats and dogs** by keeping them up-to-date on Rabies vaccinations. These are available either at your veterinarian or at periodic free Rabies clinics.

For more information on Rabies go to:

**Rabies FAQ – New Jersey Department of Health:**

**<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/faq/rabies.pdf>**