



# MEDIA RELEASE

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Katharine Killen  
865-215-5534 office  
865-755-1121 cell

April 25, 2016

## **Annual rabies vaccination clinics take place May 7 and 14**

*Knoxville, Tenn.* — The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) and the Knoxville Veterinarian Medical Association will once again offer rabies vaccinations for \$10 per animal from **2 to 4:30 p.m. on May 7 and 14** at select Knox County schools.

“In 2016 alone, the Tennessee Department of Health has confirmed rabies in five pet dogs and cats, which is very concerning because unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated pets cannot only die themselves from this virus, but they can also infect other animals and endangering people,” said KCHD Environmental Health Director Ronnie Nease. “We encourage everyone to take the time to protect their family by vaccinating pets against rabies.”

At the vaccination clinics, all pets must be restrained. Dogs should be on a leash, and cats should be in carriers or pillowcases (a pillowcase is preferred because the vaccine can be administered through the cloth). Those with aggressive or uncontrollable dogs are advised to leave the pet in the car and ask for assistance at registration.

### **Rabies Vaccination Clinic Locations:**

#### **May 7, 2016**

Austin-East High School  
Ball Camp Elementary School  
Beaumont Elementary School  
Blue Grass Elementary School  
Dogwood Elementary School  
East Knox Elementary School  
Farragut High School  
Gresham Middle School  
Halls Elementary School  
Inskip Elementary School

#### **May 14, 2016**

Anderson Elementary School  
Bearden High School  
Bearden Middle School  
Brickey Elementary School  
Carter Middle School  
Cedar Bluff Primary School  
Chilhowee Elementary School  
Christenberry Elementary School  
Copper Ridge Elementary School  
Gibbs Elementary School

New Hopewell Elementary School

Hardin Valley Elementary School

Northwest Middle School

Karns Elementary School

Powell High School

Mount Olive Elementary School

Rocky Hill Elementary School

Norwood Elementary School

South-Doyle High School

Ritta Elementary School

Sunnyview Elementary School

Shannondale Elementary School

West High School

Whittle Springs Middle School

Tennessee and Knox County laws require all dogs and cats 3 months of age and older to be vaccinated against rabies, a virus that attacks the brain and spinal column. If untreated, death can occur within days of the onset of symptoms. The best way to prevent rabies is to vaccinate pets and avoid contact with stray or wild animals. It's also important to vaccinate indoor pets, who can accidentally encounter wild animals such as bats or raccoons.

People who suspect they may have come into contact with the rabies virus, either through a bite or saliva from an infected animal, should immediately wash the area for at least five minutes with soap and water. They should then seek medical care and treatment guidance from a health care professional. For more information about rabies, visit [www.cdc.gov/rabies/](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/).

**About Knox County Health Department:**

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to making every person a healthy person. As the first health department in Tennessee to achieve national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, KCHD's mission is to encourage, promote and assure the development of an active, healthy community through innovative public health practices. The organization conducts disease surveillance, prevention and control; emergency preparedness; nutrition and physical activity promotion; tobacco use prevention; health equity promotion; immunizations; and much more. For more information, visit [www.knoxcounty.org/health](http://www.knoxcounty.org/health).

###

