



Lexington-Fayette County Health Department

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Health department to hold annual rabies clinic May 6

An annual way to protect your pets – and save money doing so – is set to return to Lexington.

The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department's annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic will be held 6-9 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at the Third Street Fire Station, 219 E. Third St. Vaccinations will cost just \$3. All cats must be in a carrier, and all dogs must be on leashes.

Rabies, a viral disease of humans, pets and wild animals, is transmitted from animals to humans by the saliva of a rabid animal, usually from a bite.

"The clinic is a great way to give pet-owners a low-cost way to get a rabies vaccination for their animals," said Luke Mathis, Environmental Health team leader and one of the event's organizers. "Anyone with a pet is welcome to come get a low-cost shot, and we're especially encouraging any animal owner wanting a low-cost vaccination or those without a regular veterinarian to attend."

Rabies vaccinations typically cost about \$20.

State law requires that all dogs, cats and ferrets maintain a current rabies vaccination, and every health department in the state must hold a public clinic at least once a year. The health department gave 422 rabies shots during the May 2009 clinic. The LFCHD Rabies Control Program received 969 animal bite reports last year, with LFCHD staff making sure each animal was up to date on all rabies vaccination shots.

The clinic also provides pet owners with the opportunity to purchase an animal license, which costs \$8 if the animal has been spayed or neutered. A license costs \$40 if the animal has not been fixed or the owner has no proof of alteration. The Lexington Humane Society, the Central Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association and the Lexington-Fayette County Animal Care & Control are also sponsoring the clinic.

For more information on the annual rabies clinic, call the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department's Division of Environmental Health at (859) 231-9791.

PREVENT

PROMOTE

PROTECT