

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Give your family the gift of safety this holiday season!

Make sure pets are up-to-date with their license and rabies vaccine.

Eau Claire, WI, December 1st, 2016 –While checking off your holiday to-do list, be sure to renew your pets' license by December 31st if you live in the City of Eau Claire. The pet license year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Note that a proof of rabies vaccine is required if you are licensing a new pet (dog or cat) or if the rabies vaccine is expired at renewal time.

“To keep your whole family safe and healthy, it is important that your pets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccine. The vaccine will keep them from getting this deadly, yet preventable disease from rabid animals, and spreading it to your family,” said Shane Sanderson, Environmental Health Director at the Health Department.

In 2015, there were 156 animal bites reported to the Health Department. 60% of the dogs were properly immunized for rabies compared to only 11% for cats. If there is no proof the animal has a current rabies vaccination, the animal is required to stay at a veterinary clinic for 10 days to watch for signs of rabies. This can be very costly to the owner. If the animal has a current immunization, it may be kept at home and examined by a veterinarian on the first day and final day of the 10-day home quarantine.



To make sure your pets and family are safe and healthy:

- Talk with your veterinarian to make sure your pets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccine.
- License your pets if you are living in the City of Eau Claire.
 - Unlicensed pets can be licensed using the pet application found at <http://eauclairewi.gov/departments/administration-services/finance/customer-services/licenses#Petlicenses> or you can stop down at City Hall to pick up an application.
 - Already licensed pets will receive renewal notices the first week in December.

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