

# INSIGHT

WTC COMMUNITY WEEKLY



## ***Rabies: Facts Not Fear***

September 28 is World Rabies Day. Rabies is a deadly but preventable virus that can infect animals and humans. Many warm-blooded animals carry rabies, including foxes, wolves, and dogs. The virus is passed on when an infected animal bites, scratches or licks an open wound.

Rabies has no cure. If a person does not receive appropriate medical care after exposure, the infection is almost always fatal. A vaccine given by a medical professional soon after an animal bite can prevent rabies and save your life.

We can all do our part to stop rabies:

- Be safe; don't tease dogs.
- Do not approach or feed dogs you do not know.
- Avoid stray dogs.
- Supervise children around dogs.
- Vaccinate your pet regularly.
- Keep your pets tied on a leash or chain when outside.
- Contact the health centre immediately if you are bitten or scratched by an animal.

Let's keep rabies a part of our own history, and work to make it something we used to have to fear. We have enough to think about when it comes to zoonotic disease: Let's not worry about something we know how to prevent.

## **4 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT RABIES**

- Rabies is survivable – for people, anyway
- A British rabies scare may have inspired a Stephen King book
- Without rabies, there might be no "Twilight" or "Walking Dead"
- Until vaccines, dogs were not man's best friend

**Yours trully,**  
*the community editor*