



## CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 13, 2010

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### **Free Rabies Clinic Scheduled**

Ashville, NY - The Chautauqua County Department of Health announces a free rabies vaccination clinic to be held on **Saturday, July 17th, from 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon at the Town Building, 1001 Blockville-Watts Flats Rd, Ashville.** The clinic is sponsored by the Town of Harmony with Dr. Andrew Malinowski as the attending veterinarian.

Vaccinations will be provided free of charge to all dogs, cats and domesticated ferrets three (3) months of age and older. Please know that all pets **must** be on a leash or in a cage; and you should bring rabies vaccination records for each animal that will be receiving a shot. It is helpful for the veterinarian to know the previous immunization status of each animal to ensure proper and effective vaccination.

New York State law requires each dog, cat and domesticated ferret over the age of four months be vaccinated against rabies. County residents are encouraged to be responsible pet owners by having pets vaccinated.

Rabies is a very serious disease of warm-blooded animals caused by a virus. Raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes are the common disease carriers. The virus is transmitted to humans and animals through saliva. It can enter the body from a bite, scratch, scrape or open cut. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, causing brain swelling and ultimately death within days of the onset of symptoms.

For more information on the July 17th clinic and rabies in general, please see the Health Department's website at: <http://www.co.chautaugua.ny.us/health/healthframe.htm> or contact the Health Department toll free at 1-866-604-6789.

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