

Rabies Virus – June 2006

NH Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian

- 1) Rabies is a viral disease of mammals
 - a. Transmissible from non-human animals to humans
 - b. Vaccines are available for many species
 - c. There is *NO* treatment that works after clinical signs begin
 - d. Rabies is essentially 100% fatal in these cases in humans and non-human animals

- 2) Transmission
 - a. Typically bites of infected animal
 - i. Can take up to 6 months for clinical signs to develop in non-human animals after a bite
 - b. Non-bite exposures
 - i. Scratches
 - ii. Contact with brain, spinal cord, other infectious material
 - iii. Through broken skin or mucous membranes (e.g. eyes, mouth, nose)

- 3) Vaccines
 - a. Dogs, cats, ferrets required in NH (*RSA 436:99-109*)
 - b. Requires licensed NH veterinarian to administer for these vaccines
 - c. Science based on *Rabies Compendium* published annually by National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
 - i. Recommend veterinary control of administration
 - ii. One and three year vaccines depending on manufacturer
 - d. Strongly recommended by state veterinarian based on this guidance to have all animals in public events with potential human/public contact (e.g. fairs, etc.) vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian for participation

- 4) More information
 - a. NH Department of Agriculture, 603.271.2404
 - b. NH Department of Health and Human Services, 603.271.4820