

From: Leslie Binnington <Leslie.Binnington@wdgpublichealth.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 2:00 PM
To: Bill White
Subject: Rabies in Ontario

Good afternoon,

Did you know that hundreds of raccoons and skunks in Ontario have tested positive for the raccoon strain of rabies in the last 18 months? Rabies is a fatal disease that can affect any mammal, including humans. For this reason, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health is asking for your support to inform the public about the threat of rabies and how people can protect themselves.

Why is rabies a concern?

[Raccoon rabies](#) has recently re-emerged after a 10 year absence in the Ontario wildlife population. Although Wellington County, Dufferin County, and the City of Guelph have not had a confirmed positive case of rabies yet, it may only be a matter of time until wild animals from affected areas venture into our region. Cases of rabies in animals have been found in our neighbouring regions, mostly in the Hamilton area, but also in Halton Region, Haldimand-Norfolk, Niagara Region, Perth County and Brant County.

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health has created a **public awareness campaign**, to inform the public about what rabies is, why it is a concern, and how people can protect themselves, their families, and their pets from getting rabies. We are inviting our local municipalities to join this campaign and raise awareness in our community about the risk of rabies.

How can you get involved?

Here are the resources that WDG Public Health can offer you:

1. Print materials for your lobby or community areas/facilities including:

- Brochures
- Posters

2. Electronic materials for your website, social media accounts, and electronic newsletters including:

- Campaign images of the 'baccoon' and skox' (see attached)
- Key messages about rabies
- A link to the [rabies page on our website](#)

- Support materials for your staff, such as a Question & Answer Sheet of facts about rabies

Interested in becoming involved? Please contact me, Leslie Binnington, at leslie.binnington@wdgpublichealth.ca or 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4244.

We thank you for your consideration as we work to help prevent rabies in our community.

Sincerely,

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