



## Alabama Veterinary Medical Association

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*Protecting People, Pets and Livestock - Yesterday, Today and Always.*

## PRESS RELEASE

### Rabies Clinics to be held in Montgomery County

May 3, 2017

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MONTGOMERY, Ala.** - The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association wants to encourage pet owners to get their pets vaccinated for rabies if their vaccinations are not current. ALVMA members will be hosting rabies clinics at the locations listed below on May 6 and May 13 from 2 - 5 PM.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that infects the brain and spinal cord of mammals. The virus is spread from exposure to saliva or nervous tissue from an infected animal, usually through a bite. Scratches or saliva contact with a mucous membrane are also considered as exposure risks. Rabies is preventable if proper treatment is given before symptoms occur, but is fatal once symptoms are present.

While dogs have historically been associated with spreading rabies to people, more cats than dogs are reported rabid in the U.S. each year. Cats are often in close contact with both people and wild animals, including those that primarily spread rabies, like raccoons and bats. Thus rabies may be more easily spread to people from cats.

In Alabama, there are two different strains of rabies virus: the raccoon variant and the bat variant. The raccoon strain can infect other wildlife, such as foxes, coyotes, and skunks; but more importantly, it can infect people's pets. Vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets is required by law. Vaccinations for other species, such as horses and livestock are also available and recommended.

Rabies clinics will be available at the following locations:

Carver High School

Catoma Elementary

Chisholm Elementary

Dunbar-Ramer

South Montgomery County Academy

Flowers Elementary

Garrett Elementary

Georgia Washington

Park Crossing

Pintlala Elementary

Take advantage of the convenience of having ALVMA veterinarians in your neighborhood and get your pets vaccinated. Protecting them also protects you and your family.

Founded in 1907, The Alabama Veterinary Medical Association is comprised of approximately 700 veterinarians from around the state, all committed to protecting People, Pets and Livestock – Yesterday, Today and Always.

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