

Notice – *Animal Health Act* – Reportable and Notifiable Disease - Rabies

Effective April 1, 2014, as Chief Provincial Veterinarian, I will be declaring:

- **Rabies in domestic animals to be a reportable disease, and**
- **Rabies in wild animals to be a notifiable disease**

in the Province of Alberta under the authority of sections 3(b)(ii) and 4(e) of the *Animal Health Act* (Alberta).

Any domestic or wild animal suspected of carrying rabies infection **MUST** be reported to the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (CPV) within 24 hours. You can report by calling 1-844-427-6847.

Clinical signs of rabies may include any of the following:

- Abnormal cranial nerve reflexes, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, abnormal vocalization
- Abnormal behaviour, aggression, self-mutilation
- Ataxia, weakness, paralysis, difficulty breathing, and/or seizures

For the purposes of this notice,

- ‘domestic animals’ include farmed animals and animals in captivity including wild animals for which a permit has been issued for the purposes of the *Wildlife Act*.
- ‘wild animals’ includes wildlife and controlled animals as defined in the *Wildlife Act*.

Cases of suspected rabies in domestic animals will now be managed by the Alberta Public Health Veterinarian.

If you have any questions about Alberta’s rabies control program, contact the Alberta Public Health Veterinarian (1-844-427-6847).

Dr. Gerald Hauer,
Chief Provincial Veterinarian
Animal Health and Assurance Division
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
Tel (780) 427-3448 Fax (780) 415-0810

Additional Information:

Rabies will also continue to be a federally reportable disease.

Rabies must also be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). A list of the CFIA district offices can be found at: www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/offices/eng/1300462382369/1300462438912