



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH- Linda Beers, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH PROMOTION &
PLANNING- Jessica Darney Buehler, MPH

January 9, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information:

Lindsay Java, Communication Specialist Essex County Health Department
518-873-3517 | lindsay.java@essexcountyny.gov

Rabid fox in Ticonderoga

Elizabethtown, NY. The Essex County Health Department (ECHD) was notified Thursday evening, January 5, 2023 that an individual was attacked and bitten by a grey fox in Ticonderoga. A NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) officer and a Ti Police officer were called to the scene of the incident to attempt to retrieve the fox for purpose of rabies testing. The animal was located and promptly dispatched with no further human, pet or livestock exposures. Following consultation with ECHD, the fox specimen was submitted to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory for rabies testing.

Results returned today, Monday, January 9, 2023 confirming the fox was positive for rabies. "All rabies post-exposure protocols were followed and we don't expect any further risk to the public at this time," stated Jessica Darney Buehler, Director of Health Planning & Promotion for ECHD. This is the first confirmed case of rabies in a wild animal in 2023. There were four confirmed cases of rabies in wild animals in Essex County in 2022; two grey foxes tested positive for the virus after attacking individuals in separate incidents in Ticonderoga and North Hudson over the summer and two raccoons, found deceased in Moriah, also tested positive for rabies.

To best protect people, pets, and livestock, ECHD recommends the following prevention actions:

- Keep pets and livestock up to date with rabies vaccinations;
- Attend pets when outside and feed pets inside;
- Tightly cap garbage cans, birdseed and other food sources to avoid attracting wild animals to your yard.



**HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**
Public Health Unit

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH- Linda Beers, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH PROMOTION &
PLANNING- Jessica Darney Buehler, MPH

Those who have been exposed to saliva or brain tissue of a suspected rabid animal should:

- Wash all wounds thoroughly with soap and water;
- Seek medical attention immediately;
- Report animal bites or possible rabies exposures to ECHD 518-873-3500.

If your pet or livestock has contact with saliva or brain tissue of a suspected rabid animal, contact your veterinarian for medical care and contact ECHD to determine what additional follow-up may be needed.

ECHD may submit wild animals and bats for rabies testing if they have had contact with humans or pets, or if they have displayed unusual behavior.

Visit co.essex.ny.us/Health for more information about rabies and to register for free rabies vaccination clinics offered by ECHD.

###