

January 23, 2008

## **Toronto Public Health investigating rabies exposures**

Toronto Public Health is investigating human exposure to rabies from dogs purchased at a Toronto flea market. One puppy purchased at booth #1513 at Dr. Flea's Hwy 27 & Albion Rd Flea Market on Sunday, January 13 tested positive for rabies after being brought to the Toronto Humane Society.

Toronto Public Health is asking people to call 416-338-7600 if they have touched or purchased a puppy from this booth on Sunday, January 13. This line will be open until 9:00 p.m. Wednesday and then will re-open at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

Rabies is a rare condition in Ontario, and, if left untreated, is usually fatal for humans and animals. People who have been exposed to rabies must be vaccinated to prevent illness. The rabies virus is found in the saliva of a rabid animal and can be spread through a bite, cut or scratch, or if the saliva comes in contact with the moist tissues of the mouth, nose or eyes.

Toronto Public Health is reminding the public to purchase or adopt animals from reputable sources and always ensure that the mother of the puppies has been vaccinated. It is also important that all pets have up-to-date rabies vaccinations.

Several other health units in the surrounding area are involved in this investigation, which is ongoing. Further updates will be provided as necessary.

For more information, visit [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health). Rabies information can also be found at [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/pubhealth/rabies/qa/rabies\\_qa.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/program/pubhealth/rabies/qa/rabies_qa.html).

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. In the past three years, Toronto has won more than 70 awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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