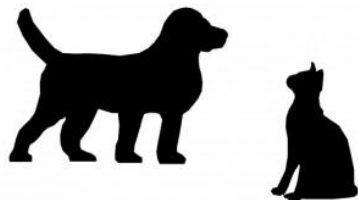


How do I get my pet vaccinated in Martin County?

The suggested method for vaccinating domestic animals in Martin County is by visiting a local veterinarian. Vets can supply a one-time vaccination that prevents rabies for up to 7 years. They can also do an overview of your pet to make sure it is healthy and has all the latest vaccines. Local vets are listed on the back of this brochure.

Another option is to have the rabies shot through the Martin County Animal Enforcement Division. This \$10 vaccine will only protect your pet from rabies for up to 3 years. To get the rabies shot through Animal Enforcement Division, please call ahead. The contact information is included in this brochure.



**Martin County Sheriff's Office
Animal Enforcement Division**

1421 Landfill Road
(off of McCaskey Road)
Williamston, NC 27892

Phone: 252-789-4316
Fax: 252-792-6910

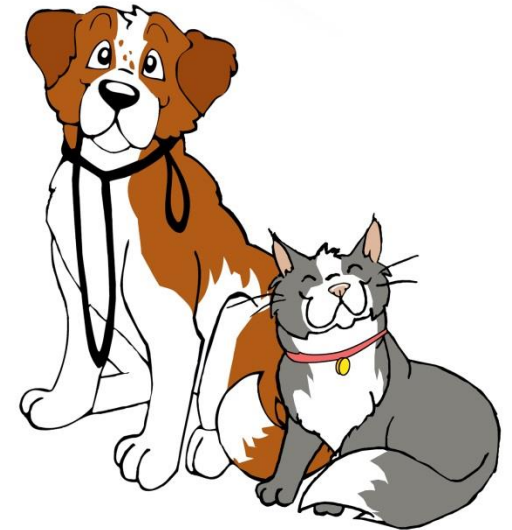
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM &
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Local Veterinarians:

Shelton's Veterinary Clinic
801 East Boulevard
Williamston, NC 27892
252-792-2808

Williamston Veterinary Hospital
1720 US Highway 17
Williamston, NC 27892
252-792-3000

Rabies Prevention



Why your pets are required
to have the rabies vaccine
&

How to get a rabies shot
in Martin County, NC

What is rabies?

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals (including people) most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. However, domestic animals can also contract and spread rabies if they become exposed to an infected animal.

What are the symptoms?

In Animals:

The first symptoms of rabies may be nonspecific and include lethargy, fever, vomiting, and anorexia. Signs progress within days to cerebral dysfunction, cranial nerve dysfunction, ataxia, weakness, paralysis, seizures, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, abnormal behavior, aggression, and/or self-mutilation. If you see

an animal, domestic or wild, that is behaving strangely or that has any of the above symptoms, stay away from it and call Martin County Animal Enforcement Division.

In Humans:

Contracted by exposure to an infected animal, the rabies virus infects the central nervous system, causing encephalopathy [a brain disease] and ultimately death. Early symptoms of rabies in humans are nonspecific, consisting of only a headache and fever. As the disease progresses, neurological symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, foaming at the mouth, difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). However, by the time a victim recognizes these more dramatic symptoms, it is often too late. The fatality rate of someone with rabies is 100% if that person doesn't get treatment within 12 hours.

But isn't rabies rare? Why is it necessary to vaccinate my pet against rabies?

Rabies can be prevented or greatly reduced in incidence by government-mandated animal vaccinations and by avoiding any contact with an animal suspected of having rabies. In 1955 there were over 4,000 cases of rabies in domestic animals in the United States; in 2007 there were only 482, meaning that rabies in *domestic* animals is relatively rare. However rabies is still very much present in this country; in 2007 over 6,000 cases were reported in wild animals, mostly raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. Because cats and dogs can come into contact with wild animals that may have rabies, it is still necessary to vaccinate them and to keep their vaccines up to date. Besides, it's the law. In order to keep the number of infected domestic animals to a minimum, we must make sure our pets get their appropriate rabies vaccination.