

June 13, 2018

To: Polk County Media
From: Polk County Health Department
Re: Increase in Animal Bites

For More Information Contact: Brian Kaczmarski- Director (715) 485-8560

The summer months sees an increase in reportable animal bites to the Polk County Health Department (PCHD). These reports must be followed-up by public health staff. This is done to protect the health of those affected by the animal bite, as well as the public in general.

The PCHD wants to remind everyone that Wisconsin State Law (SS 95.21) states that any dog or cat which bites a person is to be confined for ten days to watch for signs of rabies. This important public health law is in place to protect everyone's health.

During the summer months families and their pets may be out and about more, leading to more chances for animal bites. The best way to prevent these types of accidents is for owners to vaccinate and control their pets to avoid injuries and costly bills due to a bite. As a reminder, it is the owners' responsibility to pay for any cost related to an animal needing to be confined.

To learn more about this important public health law and ways to protect your pet and yourself, please visit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website and search 'Animal Bites.'

END

Reference: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/rabies/animalbites.htm>