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Bulletin No. 14  
March 14, 1997  
RABIES ALERT!

**EPIZOOTIC IN FOX POPULATION  
VACCINATE YOUR DOG(S)  
SUPPORT ANIMAL CONTROL EFFORTS**

A major epizootic (epidemic in animals) caused by rabies is occurring in foxes along the north and west coastal areas of Alaska. Rabies began to appear in foxes in early 1996 and spread has increased in recent months. In the first 10 weeks of 1997 rabies has been documented in eight animals in contrast to 10 reported cases of rabies in foxes in all of 1996.

The first rabid fox identified in 1997 was from Point Lay. Subsequently, the location of positive foxes demonstrates progression of the epizootic southward along the north and west coastal area as far south as Bethel.

Elimination of rabies in wildlife is not possible. Rabies control depends on 1) vaccination of dogs and cats, and 2) aggressive efforts to control and eliminate strays and feral populations.

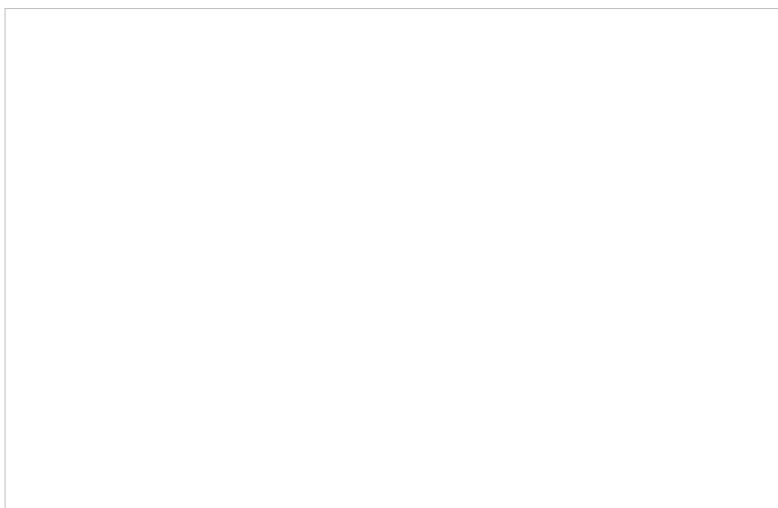
Rabies vaccination is available from your private veterinarian or, in rural communities, your lay vaccinator, Rabies Control Program, State of Alaska.

Immediate efforts should be directed to the identification of dogs in need of rabies vaccination. A rapid and systematic approach is critical for vaccinating dogs particularly in villages in northern and western parts of the state.

Rabies prevention requires the participation and support of regional health corporations, Indian Health Service, sanitarians, lay vaccinators, and private veterinarians.

**Villages with Rabid Foxes  
1997**

Type of Fox	Village	# Rabid Foxes
Arctic	Point Lay	2
Arctic	Point Hope	1
Red	Kivalina	1
Arctic	Banner Creek	1
Red	Shaktoolik	1
Arctic	Chevak	1
Red	Bethel	1



**SUPPORT  
YOUR LOCAL  
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS  
-- VACCINATE YOUR DOGS --**