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*County Executive*

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: July 5, 2012**

**Contact: Allen Beals, MD, JD, Commissioner of Health**  
**(845) 808-1390**

## **Cats Represent Growing Concern for Rabies Exposure; *Free Animal Vaccination Clinic Scheduled for July 21***

Rabies continues to be a serious public health problem throughout New York State. Last year 43 residents were bit by rabid bats and 21 by rabid cats. In Putnam County, the number-one cause of exposure remains bats, but cats and wild animals still create a cause for concern. In early May, a stray cat found in Mahopac tested positive for rabies, which resulted in one human treatment due to a bite by the feline. Vaccination of pets can prevent rabies in animals and reduce the risk of human exposure. A free vaccination clinic for pets will be held on Saturday, July 21, from 10 am to 12 pm, at Hubbard Lodge, 2920 Route 9 in Cold Spring. It is open to all Putnam County residents with dogs, cats and ferrets and is sponsored by the Putnam County Department of Health.

Three documents are needed, including a photo ID for proof of Putnam County residency and a prior rabies vaccination certificate for pets receiving a three-year immunization. Without written documentation of prior vaccination (tags are not acceptable), pets receive a one-year vaccine. The third document, an animal information/release form will be available and can be completed at the clinic. All dogs must be leashed, and cats and ferrets must be in a carrier. For more information and directions, please call the Putnam County Department of Health at (845) 808-1390 ext. 43127.

The Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of Putnam County residents through prevention of illness and injury. For more information, please visit our website at [www.putnamcountyny.com](http://www.putnamcountyny.com); or visit our social media sites on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/putnamhealth](http://www.facebook.com/putnamhealth) and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

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