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Public Health Advisory

Fox tests positive for rabies in Igloolik

December 14, 2021
Igloolik, Nunavut

The Department of Health would like to notify residents of Igloolik that a fox tested positive for rabies. Due to the danger of rabies, we advise all residents to be on the lookout for foxes in your area.

If you have been bitten or scratched by a fox or a dog, go to the health centre and report the incident **immediately**. Treatment must be started quickly. If you see an animal behaving strangely, staggering, frothing at the mouth, choking or making strange noises, avoid the animal and report it to conservation officer.

A fox that is sick may appear friendly. Children should not play with foxes or other wildlife. Keep domestic animals tied up when they are outside and monitor them for a change in behaviour and signs of rabies.

Rabies is commonly found in foxes and wolves in Nunavut and can spread to dogs when they are bitten by a rabid fox or wolf. Rabies can be passed onto people when an infected animal bites, scratches or licks them. A person can also get rabies when handling or skinning infected animals if they have cuts on their skin.

If you see a fox or wolf wandering around the community, or if your dog had contact with a fox or wolf, call the Wildlife Guardian at 867-934-8999 or the Regional Environmental Health Officer at 867-975-1163.

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