



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Livingston County Animal Bite Prevention and Awareness

HOWELL, Michigan. – May 19, 2011 (Livingston County Department of Public Health) -

The Livingston County Department of Public Health (LCDPH) and Livingston County Animal Control are launching an effort designed to educate the public about the importance of responsible pet ownership and animal bite prevention and awareness. Since animal bites are largely a preventable public health problem, adults and children can learn to reduce their chances of being bitten. There were 227 reported animal bites in Livingston County in 2010.

What a Pet Owner Can Do:

- Be sure your pet is healthy and current on vaccinations
- Neutered animals are calmer, healthier and may be less likely to bite
- Socialize your pet in public

How to Protect Your Family:

- Report stray animals acting unusual to Animal Control
- Leave animals alone when they are eating, sleeping or taking care of their young
- Never attempt to move or touch an injured animal
- Teach children to "Love your own, leave other animals alone."

If a Bite Occurs:

- Wash wound with soap and warm water
- Seek medical care
- Report the bite to Animal Control at 517-546-2154 or LCDPH at 517-546-9830

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Animal Control is now offering a low income Spay/Neuter Clinic on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. To make an appointment, call (517) 546-2154. For more details about the clinics or Animal Control services, go to <http://livingstonlive.org/LCAC>.

For more information or to access the handout Dog Bite Prevention, go to the Updates section at www.lchd.org or call (517) 546-9850.

CONTACT:

Ted Westmeier, RS, MPH
Director/Health Officer
Livingston County Department of Public Health
(517) 546-9850
www.lchd.org

Donald W. Lawrenchuk, MD, Medical Director
Livingston County Department of Public Health
(517) 546-9850
www.lchd.org

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