



# Rabies: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW! *continued from page 1*

not realize they have been bitten; the bites are small and can happen at night when we are sleeping. Our pets do not even have to go outside to be exposed to rabies. If you see a bat during the day, and it is in your home, it can potentially be infected with Rabies and should be tested. Do not handle the bat without gloves, and keep children and pets away from it.

## How do you find out if an animal has rabies? The only way to know is to:

- 1) Test the brain tissue (this cannot be done on a live animal), or
- 2) Wait to see if the animal is still alive 10 days after the bite. The purpose of the 10 day quarantine period is to determine if the animal was exposed to the Rabies virus. An animal who is infected with the rabies virus will succumb to the disease within 10 days.

## To Capture a Bat:

- Find a small container, like a box or a large can, and a piece of cardboard large enough to cover the opening of the container. Punch small air holes in the cardboard.
- Put on leather work gloves. When the bat lands, approach it slowly and place the container over it. Slide the cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside.
- If you are certain there has been no contact between the bat and any people or pets, carefully hold the cardboard over the container, take the bat outdoors, and release it away from people and pets.
- If there is any question about contact between the bat and people or pets, you will want to keep the bat for testing. Tape the cardboard to the container, to secure the bat inside, and then contact your local veterinarian, state health department, or Iowa State University to have the bat tested for rabies.

## Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (ISU VDL):

ISU VDL has historically provided animal rabies testing as a service to veterinarians and civilians who may be ruling out rabies as one of several differential diagnoses. In recent years, ISU VDL has received an increasing number of requests for rabies testing of domestic, livestock, and wildlife species, where the submitter is only requesting rabies testing without additional diagnostics. While ISU VDL is willing and able to provide that service to the

public, healthcare, and veterinary communities, they do not receive any state or federal funding to support testing. Therefore, ISU VDL must charge for the testing to cover their operating expenses. ISU VDL will provide rabies testing for cases of animal and/or human exposure.

## Specimen Submission and Transportation:

### Specimen Preservation:

If the specimen will not be submitted for testing immediately, it should be refrigerated until transported or shipped.

DO NOT FREEZE THE SPECIMEN.

### Specimen Transport:

A private vehicle is the fastest and preferred way to get the specimen to the laboratory. Double-bag the specimen and place it in a hard-sided container, such as a Styrofoam cooler. Place ice packs around the double-bagged specimen to keep it cool during transport. Include the appropriate Rabies Test Request Form from the State Hygienic Lab (SHL) or ISU. Call the appropriate laboratory before departure. Commercial courier services, such as FedEx, can also be used. Ship via an overnight courier.

**NOTE:** Improper packaging and/or delayed delivery may compromise the integrity of the brain material rendering the specimen unsatisfactory for testing.

## Specimen Submission Guidelines:

**Large/medium animals-** If only requesting rabies testing, a veterinarian needs to remove the head, and only the head should be submitted for testing.

**Bats-** Try not to crush the skull of the bat. Submit the entire animal.

**Small animals (mice, squirrels, etc):** Submitting the entire animal is preferred.

## Laboratory Contact Information:

### State Hygienic Lab (SHL):

319-335-4500 or 800-421-4692 (answered all hours)

### Iowa State University (ISU VDL):

During business hours call 515-294-1950 – for after standard business hours call, 515-290-1969



Sources:

VIN (Veterinary Information Network), Brooks, Wendy DVM, DABVP, Rabies. 2016. CDC (Center for Disease Control)

# Libres Law:

## War Against Winter and Tips to Help Keep Pets Safe

**A** new law in Pennsylvania has passed. The law known as the *Libres Law* makes it illegal to have pets (dogs, cats, and horses) outside in freezing temperatures for longer than 30 minutes. With a stroke of his pen, Governor Tom Wolf strengthened the laws in Pennsylvania protecting animals from abuse. Kristen Tullo, director of the Humane Society in Pennsylvania, said in Harrisburg on Wednesday that the law's passage is "history in the making". Tullo also mentioned that the legal push was needed because the current penalties did not carry suitable punishments for abuse, cruelty, and neglect committed against animals.

The law was named after a puppy that was found hours before death, emaciated, severely dehydrated, and suffering a skin infection that was infested with maggots. The bill includes new restrictions on tethering and greater penalties for animal cruelty. A few of the changes that took effect are as follows:

- Penalties for animal cruelty include 90 days to 7 years in prison and/or fines that can range from \$300-\$15,000.
- Extended to include dogs, cats, and horses.
- Mandatory forfeiture of the animal upon conviction.
- Any dogs tethered outside **MUST** be provided with water and shade and cannot spend more than 9 hours out of 24 hours tethered outside.
- If temperatures are above 90 degrees, dogs cannot be outside and tethered for more than 30 minutes and when outside, the leash must be at least three times the length of the pet.
- Veterinarians will be shielded from lawsuits for reporting allegations of animal cruelty.

This new bill updates and clarifies the existing animal abuse statute and increases penalties for abusing any animal. The new law also creates a clearer guideline for abuse, and for the first time, allows for felony charges in cases other than fighting and killing endangered species. In short, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association has called the passage of this law "an incredible victory for animals in Pennsylvania".

Hopefully, the law passed in Pennsylvania will be a cata-

lyst for other states to follow suit and pass similar laws, creating a whole new respect for animals and their well-being.

### Tips to keep your pet safe this winter according to the ASPCA:

- When pets repeatedly come in to the warm and out of the cold, their skin can get itchy and flaky. Keeping your home humidified, and drying off your pet if they are wet from playing in the snow will help. Be sure to pay special attention to between the toes!

- Refrain from shaving your dog down to their skin. Longer coats will provide much needed warmth! Short haired dogs are encouraged to wear doggy sweaters to help keep them warm.

- Bring a towel on long walks to clean off the irritating salt from their paws. Upon arriving home, immediately dry your pet's feet and stomach to remove the ice, salt, and chemicals that may have accumulated. Take special care to check paw pads for redness and cracks.

- Bathing pets during the cold winter months can have adverse effects on the pet's winter coat, washing away essential oils and increasing chances of developing the dry flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your veterinarian to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.

- Massaging petroleum jelly and other paw protectants into the paw

pads before outdoor exposure can greatly increase protection from the salt and chemical agents. Doggie booties can be used as well to keep debris from getting in between toes. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.

- Antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.

- Always offer pets a warm place to sleep!

Just as harmful as keeping pets in a hot car during the summer, keeping them in a cold car during winter can prove just as dangerous. If left outdoors, pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, stolen, or injured. And finally, remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet!



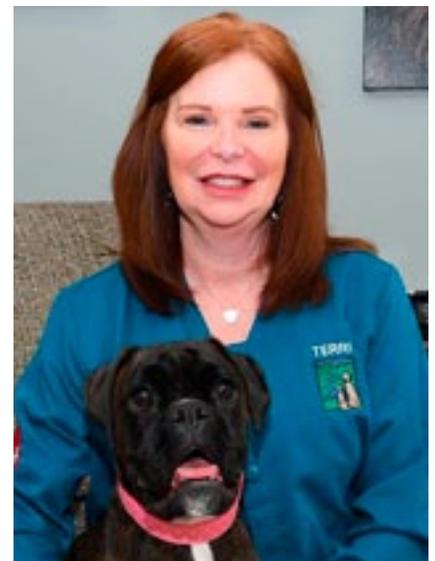
## Welcome Holly!



## Monthly Meetings

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital feel that monthly employee meetings are essential to promoting communication and educational opportunities. Because of this, we will be closed from **1:30-2:40 PM, Wednesday, January 17** and **March 23**.

## Welcome Terri!



**H**olly was born and raised in Lake Mills, Iowa. She has served in the Army National Guard since 2009 and she even plays the keyboard in an Army rock band! She received her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University and moved on to receive her Masters in Music from the University of Northern Iowa. Before joining the JCAH team, she worked at Tails Doggy Daycare in Boston, Massachusetts. She also was a piano instructor at the University of Dubuque, as well as at the Northeast Iowa School of Music.

Hobbies and interests that keep Holly busy include, music, reading, geocaching, enjoying the outdoors, spending time with family and friends, and learning all about animals. She has two guinea pigs at home named Phoebe and Izzy, whom she thoroughly enjoys! Please help us welcome Holly to the JCAH team as a receptionist!

**T**erri was born in Arizona but has spent the majority of her life in West Des Moines, Iowa. She attended Simpson College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration. She worked in the corporate world for 30 years before taking some time off. When she decided to go back to work, she wanted it to be for something that she was passionate about—animals! Just before joining the JCAH Team, she had the opportunity to volunteer at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah!

Terri has had at least one cat at all times throughout her life. She currently is a fur-mom to Gracie, her Euro Boxer, and two cats, Bosco and Dash. Her animals are her “kids”. Hobbies of Terri’s include, riding motorcycles, music, traveling, volunteering, and spending time with family and friends. Please help us welcome Terri to the JCAH team as our relief receptionist!

## MEET THE STAFF/our editors for this issue of Pet Gazette



**Dr. Cody Mingus** was born in Falls City, Nebraska. She attended the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Veterinary Science in 2006. She enrolled in veterinary school at Iowa State University and received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2010. After practicing at a pet hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, she joined the staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in 2012.

Dr. Mingus and her husband Zach, are parents of three daughters—Emmree, Palmer, and Vivienne. They are also the parents of two dogs, Gus and Stewy, and one cat, Noodle. She enjoys spending any free time with her daughters and pets, but also camping, attending outdoor concerts, and watching movies at home.



**Kat** was born and raised in the Chicago area and is a first-generation Polish-American. Kat speaks Polish fluently! She attended Iowa State University and graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Animal Science. She went on to work at a veterinary clinic in Iowa City and at the University of Iowa as an Animal Caretaker. She is currently enrolled in DMACC’s veterinary technician program

with a prospective graduation date of May 2019. Kat is happy to return to central Iowa with her fiancé, Will. Together they have a cat named Twilight and a dog named Tavi.

Kat enjoys traveling outside of the country and exploring different cultures. In her free time she likes to camp, bike ride, and spend time with friends.