



Elk Grove Police Department

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2011

GLOBAL RABIES PREVENTION INITIATIVE STARTS LOCALLY

ELK GROVE, CA – The Elk Grove Police Department Animal Services Unit will be promoting rabies prevention awareness and education by celebrating World Rabies Day. World Rabies Day will take place on September 28, 2011. In Elk Grove, the Animal Services Unit will be hosting an event on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at Kittel Family Veterinary Practice located at 8153 Elk Grove Blvd. Suite #30 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

During the event, a variety of services and vendors related to your 4 legged family members will be available. Resident will be offered free rabies vaccines, free one year altered animal license (dog or cat) for all Elk Grove residents, and \$5.00 micro chipping will be available to all animals.

Rabies education and prevention is the goal of World Rabies Day, an international program now in its fourth year has helped educate about 100 million people worldwide, has involved 125 countries and has led to the successful vaccination of 3 million animals. These numbers are significant because rabies kills more than 55,000 people each year, many of them children living in poorer areas of Africa and Asia.

During 2009, according to the CDC report, 49 states and Puerto Rico reported 6,690 cases of rabid animals and four human cases, representing a 2.2 percent decrease from the 6,841 rabid animals and two human cases reported in 2008. About 92 percent of reported rabid animals were wildlife, with the majority of cases involving raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes. There were 300 reported cases in cats, 81 cases in dogs, 74 cases in cattle, and 41 cases in horses and mules.

Partners around the world are holding events and engaging in public education campaigns to help eliminate this completely preventable disease. "This campaign offers all of us a unique opportunity to increase global awareness of the most deadly disease known to humans," says Dr. Deborah Briggs, Executive Director for the Alliance of Rabies Control. "A major part of this effort is the declaration of an annual World Rabies Day on September 28th. Events are planned throughout the world to increase awareness about rabies, and to raise support and funding towards its prevention and control."

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