Suggested Newsletter Inserts for Elementary Schools

Rabies Program

**Animal Stranger Danger**

You can’t always tell if an animal is friendly. Help your child avoid coming in contact with an animal that could have rabies by teaching them to:

* Always ask permission before petting any dog or cat.
* Never touch or play with any wild animal.
* Tell an adult if they ever see a lost or injured animal.
* And tell an adult right away if they have touched, been scratched or bitten by anyanimal.

Also, if you have pets it’s best to keep them indoors at night, don’t let them run free, and remember to keep all of their vaccinations up-to-date. Keeping your pet safe and healthy will help keep your family safe and healthy too!

For more information visit the health unit’s website at [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/) or call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

**What to do if bitten by an animal**

If you or a family member is bitten by any animal, immediately wash the wound well with soap and water, and then contact your physician. Ensure the health unit is notified so that they can investigate and assess for rabies risk.

To prevent animal bites and rabies exposure:

* Avoid contact with and feeding of unfamiliar animals – cat and dogs too.
* Always ask permission before petting cats or dogs.
* Don’t let your pet run around at night and keep your pet’s vaccination up-to-date – it’s the law.

For more information on rabies and bite prevention visit [www.simcoemuskokahealth.org](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org) or call *Health Connection* at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.