

## Free rabies clinics begin Monday

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St. Landry Parish Animal Control, with support from the Louisiana Department of Health, is once again offering free rabies vaccinations to all dogs and cats.

The vaccination clinics will be held in various locations throughout the parish this week.

"There are two big reasons to get your pet vaccinated," said Veterinarian John Fontenot, one of several local vets volunteering their time and skill to the free vaccination program.

"First, it's the law. All dogs and cats are suppose to be vaccinated annually," Fontenot said.

State law requires that all dogs and cats three months of age and older be vaccinated. The other reason is even more important.

"Pets are our companions. They act as a buffer between us and the native pool of rabies. If they encounter a rabid skunk or raccoon and are bitten, they can transmit the disease to us," Fontenot said.

To receive their free shots, dogs must be on a leash or restrained by their owner. Cats must be in a carrier.

"It is a simple procedure; just an injection," said Dr. Robert Speyer, who has volunteered his time to help with the program for more than 30 years.