



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

SCOTT COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

A Season of Change:

New Leadership at SCHD



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The work of public health often changes with the seasons! Many public health professionals will agree that certain times of year bring different public health responsibilities. For instance, in the summer the Scott County Health Department's (SCHD) environmental health specialists are busy with effluent sampling, mosquito surveillance, and temporary food stand permitting. In the fall, children are back in school so public health nurses are busy giving shots and auditing immunization records. The winter and spring typically bring a new season for grants. Staff dedicate their efforts to grant applications and grant reporting during this time.

As the seasons change from summer to fall, the Scott County Health Department will make the usual transition in work and services but for the first time in 27 years it will be under new leadership. In September, Lawrence Barker will retire as Director of Scott County Health Department.

Mr. Barker has worked in public health for 38 years and has been at the SCHD since 1976.

The experience and knowledge from Mr. Barker's "seasons" in the field have helped guide and advance public health in Scott County and at the State level. Mr. Barker's leadership has been instrumental in the development of the Iowa public health accreditation process. Most recently in April 2010, Mr. Barker received the Richard Remington Award from the Iowa Public Health Association. This award recognizes an

individual who has excelled in the advancement of public health. A recognized public health visionary and mentor, Mr. Barker plans to continue to contribute to public health on a volunteer basis.

One of just two directors since the Department's inception in 1969, the Scott County Health Department Director reigns will be passed for the third time to Edward Rivers. Mr. Rivers is an experienced environmental

health administrator from Catawba County, North Carolina.

The Department looks forward to a new chapter under Mr. Rivers' leadership. Mr. Rivers brings with him 24 years of public health experience. He has a master's degree in public health administration from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 2009, Mr. Rivers received the honor of Best Leadership Project from the

Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute.

Mr. Rivers was selected by unanimous decision by the Scott County selection committee. Mr. Rivers impressed committee members with his recent work focus and projects that involved program standards, quality assurance, public health accreditation and the use of technology to increase efficiencies and improve customer service.



Lawrence E. Barker posing with Barb Vos, who nominated Barker for the Richard Remington Award, 2010

A SEASON FOR SAFETY

NOTE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY SERVICE AREA

October is National Fire Prevention Month! During this time of year, the Health Department encourages families to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms, and practice safe evacuation routes.

Smoke Alarms:

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra

safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside sleeping areas. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions. In standard type battery powered smoke alarms, the batteries need to be replaced at least once per year and the whole unit should be

replaced every 8-10 years.

Evacuation Plan:

Plan two escape routes out of your home and practice fire drills with your children until they can escape the home from every room, especially bedrooms. Choose a place to meet outside your home where your family should gather after escaping a fire to wait for the fire department.



A SEASON FOR BATS!

NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

Calls to the Scott County Health Department regarding bats increase in late summer and early fall when bats become more active. It is important to avoid contact with bats since they can carry rabies. Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system. Although human cases are rare, most cases of rabies in humans in the U.S. have been caused by rabies virus from bats. Without preventive treatment, rabies is fatal to

humans. You can help prevent the spread of rabies by following these tips:

- Be sure your house is bat proof. Bats can enter through open doors, unscreened windows, vents and chimneys. They can squeeze through tiny openings as small as 3/8 inch. If you see bats in your house, it is best to call a professional.

- Teach children to stay away from unfamiliar animals, even ones that seem friendly. You cannot tell by looking if an animal has rabies.
- Make sure your pets (dogs, cats, and ferrets) have current rabies shots.
- Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet is bitten by a wild animal or exposed to a bat.



2010

Iowa rabies cases

6 bats, 6 skunks, 1 fox

Scott County rabies cases

1 bat



TIPS FOR AFTER A BITE

NOTE FROM CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

Rabies is most commonly spread through infected saliva when an infected (rabid) animal bites you. It is also possible to become infected if the saliva of the infected animal gets directly into an open cut or wound, the eyes, mouth, or nose.

In Iowa animals such as raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, and coyotes are

much more likely to carry rabies.

If bitten by any animal, the first step you should take is to thoroughly wash the wound with soap and running water. Washing the bite can greatly reduce the chances of becoming infected with the rabies virus as well as other harmful bacteria that could cause infection. Next, report

the animal bite to the Humane Society of Scott County's Animal Control Program. Reporting the bite helps animal control collect valuable information about the animal and the incident. In Iowa, anyone with knowledge of an animal bite or scratch is required to report it to animal control or law enforcement.

Immediately after the report, contact your doctor. The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) will assess your level of exposure and whether or not treatment will be needed. Your doctor can also use tools and resources available through the SCHD and the Iowa Department of Public Health to help make this decision.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF SCOTT COUNTY

**COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:
HUMANE SOCIETY OF SCOTT COUNTY**

The Humane Society of Scott County (HSSC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1902. The HSSC has a much needed presence in our community to shelter and place abandoned animals. The shelter is funded entirely by donations and a fee that is charged to the city and county for the care of the animals.

HSSC is also an advocate for

animal health. HSSC feels that it is wrong for anyone to fail to provide any animal with food, water, shelter, necessary medical care and companionship. HSSC's mission is to provide care and treatment to all animals.

Recently, HSSC hosted a low cost rabies vaccination clinic. The next clinic will be held October 12, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at HSSC. Pet

owners should bring vaccination records. The cost is \$7.50 per pet. All dogs should be on leashes and cats in a carrier.

HSSC is located at 2802 West Central Park, Davenport. For more information call 563-388-6655 or visit www.hssc.us



A SEASON FOR DENTAL HYGIENE

**NOTE FROM COMMUNITY RELATIONS,
INFORMATION AND PLANNING SERVICES**

October is Dental Hygiene Month! What a great time to make sure your family's dental health is the best it can be. Most tooth and gum problems can be prevented with a little knowledge, commitment to daily hygiene, and regular dental care.

- Brush your child's teeth every day. Children need their teeth brushed for

them until they have the ability to tie their own shoes. Infants and toddlers need their teeth brushed for them as soon as the first tooth comes through. Once your child



is 2 years old, brush their teeth with a pea sized amount of fluoride toothpaste.

- Floss daily.
- Avoid passing cavity-causing germs to your children. Never put pacifiers, forks, spoons, straws, toys, or other items in your mouth and then into your child's mouth.

- Bedtime bottles and sippy cups should only contain water. Juice and soda pop can cause tooth decay.
- Children should start seeing a dentist by their first birthday. Make sure you have a family dentist and visit regularly! Your child may need more frequent dental visits based on their needs.

RABIES MYTHS AND FACTS

**COMMON CONFUSIONS:
SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT**

Myth: There is a cure for rabies.

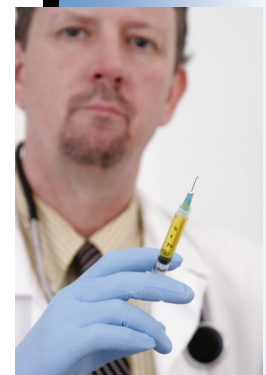
Fact: Rabies disease can be prevented. However, once clinical symptoms appear, rabies is always fatal in humans.

Myth: If you are exposed to rabies, to prevent the disease a series of 20 shots are given in the stomach.

Fact: Disease prevention includes a series of shots but not nearly the 20 in the stomach as many people believe. Instead, one shot of rabies antibody and one rabies vaccine are given as soon as possible, followed by a series of 3 rabies vaccine injections that are provided over a 2 week period. This process is called post-

exposure prophylaxis. If a person has been vaccinated for rabies before being exposed this process will be a little different.

While this reality is a lot less scary than the myth, rabies exposure is nothing to ignore. If bitten by an animal, or if you wake up to see a bat in your sleeping area contact your doctor immediately.



**SCOTT COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Scott County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2010; 12:00-1:00 p.m. &
*Open to the Public; Location: Scott County
Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*
- Scott County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2010; 12:00-1:00 p.m.
*Open to the Public; Location: Scott County
Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*
- Labor Day, September 6, 2010
County Offices will be closed

OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.



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