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World Rabies Day

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(two cases), coyote and fox (five combined), cattle (one case). Two bats were found in Contra Costa County. Almost every part of the state was affected, with multiple counties reporting a low incidence.

Part of the mission of World Rabies Day is to spread the word that rabies is 100% preventable. All dogs and cats in California can be vaccinated at four months old. Keeping your pet current on his/her rabies vaccine not only provides a high-level of protection against rabies disease, but also provides "insurance" against a euthanasia mandate by the County if your pet is bitten by a suspect rabid animal. If a wild animal bites you, promptly wash the wound thoroughly with soap and contact your physician. If a wild animal bites your pet, do not try to handle the wild animal, but contact Animal Control for advice. It is best to avoid contact with unfamiliar domestic animals and wild animals, especially the known common carriers such as bats, skunks and foxes.

Further information can be acquired through websites such as www.cdph.ca.gov/, www.veterinarypartner.com, and www.worldrabiesday.org.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her young son and two cats. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to MonaSDVM@aol.com.

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