

***YOU CAN PREVENT RABIES* POSTER CONTEST**

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, CENTER FOR VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Rabies

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that attacks the nervous system of all mammals, including humans. The virus is found in the saliva of rabid animals and is transmitted through bites. In Maryland, rabies is found most often in raccoons, skunks, foxes, cats, and bats. Fortunately, there have been no human cases of rabies in Maryland since 1976, but every year hundreds of people are treated following exposure to rabid animals. Preventing human contact with suspected rabid animals can avoid the high cost of treatment and the potential loss of human lives.

The Goal

The goal of the *You Can Prevent Rabies* poster contest is to encourage Maryland students to learn more about rabies by finding new and creative ways to illustrate important rabies prevention messages.

The Contest

- ❖ All Maryland students in grades 5 - 8 are invited to participate.
- ❖ Students will be divided by grade into two groups: 1) 5th and 6th graders, and 2) 7th and 8th graders.
- ❖ Submissions are due no later than October 24, 2008.
- ❖ 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded in each of the two groups.
- ❖ A judging panel will select winners. Posters will be judged on content accuracy, visual communication of topic and originality.

- ❖ Winners will be announced on November 14.
- ❖ The winning posters (originals and copies) may be displayed at DHMH and local public health agencies and may be used in publications, exhibits, in news materials, videotapes and on Web sites.
- ❖ Posters will become the property of DHMH and will not be returned.

Poster Topics

One of the following topics must be depicted in the artwork:

- What steps can I take to prevent rabies?
- How can my community prevent rabies?

Poster Requirements

- ❖ Posters should measure 11 x 14 inches and should be on heavy paper stock.
- ❖ Materials may include crayon, markers, paint (watercolor, tempera, and acrylic), collage, or photographs.
- ❖ Artwork must be original.
- ❖ Posters should have a title on the front.
- ❖ **Do not** include the student's name on the front of the poster.
- ❖ The Entry/Release Form must be completed, signed by a parent, and taped to the back of the poster. Forms should be clearly written or typed
- ❖ Computer-generated artwork will not be accepted.
- ❖ Lettering and message should be large enough to reproduce well. All pencil markings should be erased.
- ❖ Copyrighted characters (e.g., Snoopy), product logos, and trademarked or brand names cannot be used.

- ❖ Only one entry per student.

The Prizes

- ❖ All entrants will receive a World Rabies Day bookmark.
- ❖ The first place winner in each group will receive a World Rabies Day messenger bag and his/her choice of **one** of the following:
 - 2 tickets to the National Aquarium
 - 4 tickets to the MD Science Center
 - 4 tickets to the Maryland Zoo
- ❖ The 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive their choice of the remaining tickets in the following order:
 - The 2nd place winner from the 5-6th grades group will make the first selection, followed by the 2nd place winner from the 7-8th grades group.
 - The 3rd place winner from the 5-6th grades group will make the next selection, followed by the 3rd place winner from the 7-8th grades group.

Mailing Instructions

Please mail your poster in a tube or large, flat envelope. If you must fold it, please fold it just once. Mail posters to:

K. Feldman, DVM, MPH
State Public Health Veterinarian
MD Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 West Preston St, Room 317
Baltimore, MD 21201

For more information, click on "**Rabies and Poster Contest Information**" under **Quick Links** at www.dhmh.state.md.us, or call 410-767-5649.