

Vaccination can protect against rabies

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways of protecting your pet from various contagious animal diseases. And in the case of rabies, when you protect your pet, you also protect yourself.

Rabies is a virus-caused disease that can affect any warm-blooded animal, including man. The disease is generally transmitted when virus in the saliva of an infected animal enters a bite or other open wound. The virus has an affinity for nerve tissue and travels through the body toward the brain and spinal cord.

Rabies in man or animals can be prevented by vaccination. However, once symptoms develop, the disease is generally fatal. The man or woman bitten by a rabid animal must risk a series of injections in a race to develop immunity before the disease symptoms become obvious.

Some pet owners have the mistaken impression that cats do not need rabies

vaccination. They claim cats live mainly indoors and do not roam as far as dogs. Unfortunately, these people forget that a cat is a natural hunter and will stalk almost any small animal.

While out of doors, the cat can be bitten by a rabid skunk, fox or bat. These seemingly wild animals are not uncommon in suburban areas. Even a brief visit outside may be long enough for such an encounter. Records show about the same number of feline and canine rabies cases reported each year.

When an animal is severely bitten on the head or body, and the virus reaches the spinal cord rapidly, symptoms may develop within 2 to 12 weeks. When the infection enters through a minor cut on paw or leg, as many as 9 to 12 months may pass before signs become obvious.

Not all pets react in the same fashion to rabies infection. With "furious" rabies, animals become

alert and aggressive. Cats that are normally gentle and shy will attack family members and strangers, clawing and biting. They lose all caution and fear of natural enemies. Kittens may seem friendly, but will bite viciously even during gentle play.

The classic case of animals "foaming at the mouth" occurs when the muscles of the throat become paralyzed and the animal cannot swallow. Saliva will then drip from the jaws. As the disease progresses, the animal may experience convulsions, go into a coma and finally die.

Some animals may develop a type of "dumb" rabies. Pets that are normally affectionate and outgoing become withdrawn and sullen. Those usually somewhat aloof may be unusually affectionate. Animals with the dumb variety of rabies also develop a paralysis of the throat muscles and appear to have a foreign body lodged in the throat.

Unknowing pet owners may attempt to administer medicine or examine a pet's mouth and throat for a hidden bone fragment. Fortunately, animals with dumb rabies are not vicious and rarely attempt to bite.

If your pet's behavior changes, isolate it from other animals and people if possible. Call your veterinarian so that the animal can be tested for rabies. If the animal bites a human being, call a physician at once.

Pet owners can control the incidence of rabies by reducing the number of unvaccinated pets in the area. There are excellent vaccines available to protect both cats and dogs against the disease.

Dogs may receive up to three years' protection with one injection; cats must be vaccinated annually. Talk with your veterinarian and arrange to have your pet protected against this dangerous disease.

Course for commercial swine producers

In swine production, as in any manufacturing enterprise, profits depend on the difference between cost of production and gross return received for the product. Farmers have little control over the price they get for hogs, but they can do much to reduce production costs and thus increase profits.

"Commercial Swine Production and Marketing," a correspondence course available from Penn State, is a comprehensive guide for the commercial swine producer or farmer with a hog enterprise.

The 16-lesson course includes information on planning and financing the enterprise, buildings and equipment, improving the swine herd through breeding, feeding and nutrition, marketing live hogs, and all aspects of swine health.

Complete information is given on levels of performance of boars and gilts, reproductive problems, and swine ration formulas, etc. The course is available by sending \$8.50 plus \$1.00 postage to SWINE, Box 5000, University Park, PA 16802. Make checks payable to Penn State.

Leaves on lawn hurt grass

Don't put off raking your lawn until the last leaf falls. Leaves that are allowed to pile up on a lawn will smother the grass rather quickly.

It may seem a futile job to start to rake leaves while so many still cling to the trees, but an established as well as a newly seeded lawn can be seriously hurt by a covering of leaves.

According to James J. McKeehen, Delaware County extension agricultural agent, this is especially true when leaves get wet and form a tight mat.

There's little, if any, fertilizing value in fallen leaves.

You can put the leaves to better use by making a compost pile using the organic material. A mechanical leaf raker saves time and work, if you have a large lawn.



Developed for Eastern Pork Producers, the...

Agway Swine Feeding Program

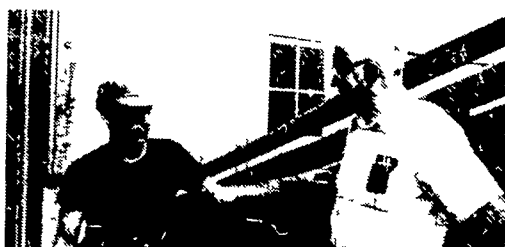
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Agway complete swine feeds and concentrates are formulated to meet all the known nutritional requirements of the pig, including protein, mineral, vitamin and amino acid requirements.

The Agway serviceperson can also recommend a complete line of medicated feeds and supplements to improve rate of gain and feed efficiency.

Since feed costs account for about 75% of the total cost of most operations, it pays to invest in feeds formulated for Eastern pork

producers. 1,800 litters a year has taught Agway a lot about feeding pigs. Call your Agway store or Representative, they're ready to put this knowledge to work for you.



Lowell Senseng, Mohnton RD 2, Pa., has a fattening operation marketing 900 to 1,000 head a year. Why does he like Agway?

They've got feeds that perform a program that works and a serviceman who's here when I need him. (His serviceman is Dick Myers, at right, of Henry Hoover Agway, Ephrata, Pa.)

Mr. Senseng takes his pigs from 8 weeks old (about 50 lbs) to market weight in four months with a conversion rate of 3.1 to 3.2.



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