



**NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION**

Providing the highest quality health services and promoting wellness within our people and environment.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM

Updated: September 6, 2018

INTRODUCTION

Alaska has a long and intimate history with rabies. There have been 3 confirmed human rabies cases in the State, with *many* confirmed cases of rabies in an assortment of different mammals through the years. The rabies virus can cause acute encephalitis in all warm-blooded hosts, including pets, wildlife and humans; the outcome of an infection is almost always fatal. In Alaska, rabies is endemic (*always* present) among the fox populations along the northern and western coastal areas, including in the Bering Strait Region.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In order to help protect the health of the people living in the Bering Strait Region, Norton Sound Health Corporation-Office of Environmental Health (NSHC-OEH) manages a Rabies Prevention and Control Program as part of their standard scope of services. The following services and activities are included in this Program:

- Disseminate relevant information to the public, Lay Vaccinators, City/Tribal leadership, and health care providers. (i.e. confirmed cases of rabies, SOA post-exposure prophylaxis updates, education outreach about rabies and the need for pet vaccinations, etc.)

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