



Town of Freetown

DATE: March 24, 2016
TOWN: Freetown

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THIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE FROM THE FREETOWN ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Two confirmed cases of Canine Distemper have been found in raccoons in the Assonet Bay Shores area. Please make sure all your animals have been vaccinated properly. It **cannot** be transmitted to people. Canine distemper can effect dogs, raccoons, skunks, fox, wolves, coyotes and ferrets. It can be spread through direct or indirect contact, and you can bring it into your home on your shoes and clothing. Canine Distemper (CD) is a highly contagious infectious disease of dogs worldwide caused by the canine distemper virus (CDV). It is often fatal. CD is a multisystemic disease that can present with one or more of the following:

- Respiratory disease with severe pneumonia
- Gastrointestinal disease with vomiting and diarrhea
- Neurological disease including seizures
- Severe immunosuppression causing the dog to become infected by normally innocuous bacteria and viruses

The most common source of infection is direct contact between the susceptible dog and infected dogs or wildlife.

Efficacy of CDV vaccines approaches 99% and dogs develop protective immunity within a few days after vaccination.

**Canine distemper is a vaccine preventable disease, please
vaccinate your pets!**