

## **RABIES: INCREASE IN FOX POPULATION CALLS FOR CAUTION**

**Kuujuuaq, January 16, 2025** – The Nunavik Department of Public Health warns Nunavimmiut that there are more foxes around villages right now. These animals can carry rabies, a very dangerous disease that can spread to people and animals through bites or scratches. Rabies is serious but can be prevented.

### **What You Should Know About Rabies:**

- Rabies spreads when a sick animal bites or scratches you. It can also spread if their saliva gets into a cut, your eyes, nose or mouth.
- A sick animal may act strangely. It could seem aggressive, fearless or look very sick.
- Rabies is almost always deadly if you don't get help.

### **What You Can Do to Stay Safe:**

1. Vaccinate your dogs. Make sure your dogs have their rabies shots. A vaccinated dog can't get rabies and helps protect you and others. Call your NV to get your dog vaccinated when a vaccination clinic is available.
2. If possible, do not let dogs roam outside freely and without supervision.
3. Stay away from wild animals. Don't go near foxes, especially if they look sick or are acting strangely.
4. Securely dispose of garbage and keep areas around homes garbage free. Garbage attracts wild animals.
5. Get help immediately if bitten or scratched. If a wild animal or dog bites you, scratches you or its saliva gets into a cut or your eyes, nose or mouth, go to the nursing station immediately.

Rabies is preventable with the right precautions and these steps are essential to reducing risks in the community.

Infectious Diseases Team  
Department of Public Health  
Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services