



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
April 1, 2010

For More Information, Contact:
Kirby Kruger
State Epidemiologist
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.4549
E-mail: kkruger@nd.gov

Grand Forks Shelter Dog Diagnosed With Rabies
*People Who May Have Been Exposed to the Animal Are Urged To Contact
the State Health Department or Grand Forks Public Health*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health, Grand Forks Public Health Department, and the Circle of Friends Humane Society of Grand Forks are alerting residents that a small shelter dog has tested positive for rabies.

The dog named Cookie was brought to the Circle of Friends Humane Society on March 9, 2010, with another larger dog named Bingo. The dogs were blue healer mixes that had been picked up as strays in Marshall County, Minn.

Both dogs were in contact with the public at the Humane Society from March 15 through March 20. The dogs have since been euthanized.

Anyone who may have been bitten or otherwise exposed to the saliva of either of these dogs at the Circle of Friends Humane Society from March 15 through March 20 should call the Grand Forks Public Health Department at 701.787.8100 or the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

Rabies is a viral infection that affects mammals, including people. It can be transmitted through bites and saliva exposure to open cuts and wounds or saliva contact with mucous membranes such as the eyes or mouth. The virus causes swelling of the brain and is almost always fatal. Rabies can be prevented by giving people rabies vaccine after exposures.

Pictures of the dogs are available at www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Rabies/. For more information about this case, the media may call Kirby Kruger, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4549, or John Bernstrom, Grand Forks Public Health, at 701.746.2708.

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov