

Public Notice

Re: Canine Distemper Virus on Pelee Island

There continues to be an above average number of sick wildlife – mainly raccoons – reported and seen on Pelee Island. Many of the raccoons and other wildlife are showing signs consistent with the Canine Distemper Virus. The Township of Pelee has confirmed, with assistance from partner agencies, positive cases of Canine Distemper as of early fall 2024.

Though canine distemper does not pose a threat to human health, dogs that have not been vaccinated for distemper can become infected if they come in contact with an animal with distemper.

Abnormal raccoon behaviour may include appearing blind and confused and may wander aimlessly and become aggressive if cornered. A mucus discharge will often be present around the eyes and nose and may be accompanied by coughing, tremors, seizures or chewing fits. Other symptoms include moving slowly and may stumble as they walk, and lack of fear towards humans. Though distemper is not rabies, there are some very similar symptoms.

If you notice a raccoon or other wildlife displaying abnormal behaviour, keep your pets away from the animal and, if required, call the non-emergency police line for advice at 1-888-310-1122.

The Township of Pelee is Asking all Members of the Public to:

- **Refrain from feeding or leaving food out for raccoons**
- **Take down any bird feeders or regularly clean up the area around the bird feeder so you do not attract raccoons**
- **Ensure all garbage is disposed of properly**
- **NOT approach raccoons or any wildlife, even if they seem tame**
- **Vaccinate your dogs against distemper**

The Township of Pelee continues to explore potential mitigation options and is actively monitoring the situation.