

READING COMPREHENSION



Read the following text and answer the questions.

Public Health Announcement

The Guilford County Department of Public Health is hosting two rabies clinics this month in honor of World Rabies Day on Sept. 28. The rabies vaccination will cost \$5 per shot and will protect your pet for one calendar year. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be kept in carriers.



The State of North Carolina requires dogs, cats, and ferrets to be vaccinated. The health department recommends that other animals that have regular contact with humans, such as horses, should be vaccinated as well. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rabies virus causes approximately 55,000 human deaths worldwide each year, with most of the deaths occurring in children under 15. The rabies virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. When an animal has rabies (or is rabid), the virus circulates throughout its body and is transmitted to other animals or humans through its saliva. The most commonly infected animals are raccoons, bats, skunks, and foxes.

The best ways to keep your pet from becoming rabid are to keep it leashed in public, as roaming pets are exposed to wild animals. Feed your pet indoors if possible. Wild animals will venture into your basement, outbuildings, or garage to seek food, so be sure the storage location you select for your pet food is secure. Moreover, do not try to touch, feed, or rescue wild animals. Do not pick up dead animals as the virus could still be present.

This year in Guilford County, the majority of the animal rabies cases have involved raccoons, foxes in a very close second place. Guilford County has recorded fifteen cases of animal rabies for this year.

1 Using information in the passage, we can understand that which of the following animals is LEAST likely to be a carrier of rabies?

- a squirrel
- a shark
- a possum
- a coyote

- 2 As used in paragraph 2, the word **transmitted** most nearly means
- a **passed**
 - b communicated
 - c attached
 - d merged
- 3 In paragraph 2, we learn that an animal has rabies, "the virus **circulates** throughout its body." Which of the following sentences uses the word **circulates** most similar to the way in which it is used in paragraph 2?
- a The host **circulates** through the party to make sure his guests are enjoying themselves.
 - b At the fair, flies **circulate** over the picnic table when the cakes and pies are displayed.
 - c **A tiny blood clot may circulate through the aorta and two ventricles of the heart.**
 - d Thanks to a window fan, cool air **circulates** through the third story bedroom.
- 4 Which of the following is **NOT** a good recommendation for those people who want to keep their animals rabies free?
- a It is best to feed your cat in the kitchen.
 - b Store your dog food in a lidded container.
 - c Do not allow your pets to go outdoors alone.
 - d **Let your dog run free at the local walking trail.**

Read the following text and answer the questions that follow.

Mercury in Fish

Mercury is a highly toxic metal found in neon signs, fluorescent lights, older thermometers, and certain kinds of telescopes. Although scientists today understand that mercury is extremely poisonous, and so it is found in only a small number of products, in the past mercury was used in many common household objects. Mirrors, hats, photography equipment, and even several kinds of medicines used to contain various levels of mercury. Prolonged contact with mercury is now known to be toxic. Because we now know how toxic mercury is, chemists and other people who work with mercury while most household objects no longer contain it, their jobs, there is still a significant amount of mercury that people eat on a regular basis: fish.

The mercury we might find in a can of tuna is not the same mercury that is naturally found in coal, is transformed into energy, mercury vapor enters the atmosphere, then returns to the lakes, rivers, and oceans. It travels great distances from the original coal plants to streams across the country, even in bodies of water.

Mercury accumulates in certain kinds of fish. In the process of bio magnification, one must first understand that sea plants that get their nutrients from the soil, as shrimp. Small fish, like herring, the

- ① Vaccination → vacunación
- ② leashed → atado
- ③ Kept → conservar
- ④ carriers → Portadores
- ⑤ state → estados
- ⑥ Disease → enfermedad
- ⑦ through → mediante
- ⑧ racoon → mapache
- ⑨ keep → mantenerse
- ⑩ leashed → atado
- ⑪ feed → alimentación
- ⑫ still → todavía
- ⑬ Guilford → Guilford