



COUNTY *of* CUMBERLAND

Public Information Office

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Public Information Officer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOX BITES RESIDENTS

On the evening of August 13th at approximately 9:00 PM a man and woman were bitten by a fox at the Legacy Apartments located on Cliffdale Rd. Later that same evening, another man was bitten by a fox. All were treated at Womack Army Medical Center and received rabies vaccinations as a precautionary measure.

This morning a woman was bitten by a fox at the Wintree Villas Apartments on Duncastle Road. She was also treated at Womack Army Medical Center.

The fox was shot by a Fayetteville Police officer and is in Raleigh for testing by the State Health Lab to determine if it was rabid. Test results should be available by tomorrow morning.

Cumberland County Animal Control would like to remind residents the first sign of rabies in animals is a change in behavior. Animals become aggressive, attacking for no reason, or they may become very quiet. Wild animals can lose their fear of people and act tame. Rabid animals may walk in a circle, drag a leg, or fall over. Some cannot swallow so they are not able to eat or drink and often drool. Animals usually die within a week after first becoming ill.

Avoiding wild animals and keeping your distance from stray dogs and cats is the first step in preventing an animal bite. Any pet which appears to have been in a fight while outside should be handled very cautiously and seen by a veterinarian.

If you are bitten:

- Immediately wash the wound with lots of soap and water
- Call the Sheriff's office, Fayetteville Police Department or Animal Control
- Go to the Emergency Room

It is also important to vaccinate your pets for rabies and keep their shots current.

For more information or questions concerning this press release please contact the Public Information Office at 910-437-1921.