



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 26, 2011

Animal Control

Contact: Dr. John Lauby, Director

Telephone: 910-321-6852

CONFIRMED CASE OF RABIES IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

FAYETTEVILLE, NC- This afternoon the State Public Health Lab in Raleigh confirmed a case of rabies in Cumberland County. A raccoon was picked up by Animal Control on the 800 block of Ashboro Street off of Law Road in Fayetteville. The raccoon was sent to the State Lab for testing. Residents in the vicinity should remain alert for sick or abnormal acting wildlife. Officials will be in the vicinity to alert residents of the incident.

All pet owners are urged to check the vaccination status of their pets. If pets are not vaccinated or are due for a booster shot, they should be taken to any local veterinarian for rabies vaccination immediately.

The first sign of rabies in animals is a change in behavior. Animals may 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 or scratched by an animal:

- Immediately wash the wound under running water for at least 10 minutes with lots of soap. Seek medical attention/advice.
- Call Animal Services at 321-6852 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call Sheriff's office at 323-1500 after 5 p.m., weekends and holidays.
- Go to the emergency room.

It is also important to vaccinate your pets for rabies and keep their shots current. Pet owners are reminded that all dogs and cats must be vaccinated against rabies, as required by NC State law. Pet owners are subject to a fine of \$100 for each unvaccinated dog or cat. Pets must be vaccinated when they reach the age of four months.

There are only two remaining rabies vaccination clinics being held this spring by the Cumberland County Public Health Department and Animal Control. They take place today and Thursday at the following locations. The cost is \$10 per animal.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011

- Eastover-Central Elementary School — 301 North at Highway 13
- Northwood Temple Church — 401 N at Andover Road
- Gallberry Farms Elementary — 8019 Byerly Drive

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011

- District 7 Elementary School — Wade-Stedman and Smithfield Roads
- Mazarick Park — Belvedere Avenue
- Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center — East Mountain Drive

For more information, call the Environmental Health Division of the Cumberland County Public Health Department 433-3660 or Cumberland County Animal Control at 321-6852.

More information is also available online at http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/health/healthy_tips/rabies_clinics.aspx.