



News Release

Date: August 25, 2009
To: All Media
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Re: 16th Rabies Case for 2009 Confirmed

(New Hanover County)— With the start of a new school year, parents should remind their children not to approach animals which are acting strangely and to not come in contact with pets who may have had contact with wild animals. New Hanover County Animal Control Services has received confirmation of the 16th case of rabies this year.

On Saturday, a Denly Court resident reported possible contact between a pet dog and a vicious fox that had chased the dog onto the owner's porch. Officers recovered the fox and test results returned today show the animal was positive for rabies. The dog's owner handled the pet without protective wear. The owner's pets were current on their rabies vaccinations and received booster shots. The owners were also notified of possible exposure. Denly Court is located in the Middle Sound area.

Animals that have a current rabies vaccination at the time of exposure should be re-boostered within 72 hours of exposure. There are three primary routes of transmission of the rabies virus, which is carried in the saliva of the infected animal: 1) the primary route of transmission is through a bite which breaks the skin of the victim, 2) salivary contact to an open, fresh wound, or, 3) saliva contact to the mucous membranes of a potential victim.

When dealing with primary rabies vectors (raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats), it is recommended that the animal be handled with protective gloves to prevent viral transmission. Personal pets should not be handled without protection directly after being exposed to wildlife, due the potential for carrying residual saliva from the infected animal. Feeding wildlife is also not advised.

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