



News Release

Date: May 13, 2009
To: All Media
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Re: 12th Rabies Case Confirmed for 2009/FREE Clinic

(New Hanover County)— Another case of rabies has been confirmed in New Hanover County bringing the number of cases to 12 so far this year. Animal Control Officers were called to a Park Avenue (Wilmington) residence Monday evening after the resident was bitten by a stray fox. The animal was found the next morning and tests returned from the state lab today show the animal was positive for rabies. The resident was advised of the test results. A decision was made to re-boost the family pets as a precaution.

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, due the potential for carrying residual saliva from the infected animal. Feeding wildlife is ill advised.

Animals that have a current rabies vaccination at the time of exposure should be re-boosted 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.

****A free rabies vaccination clinic is scheduled for this Saturday, May 16 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the dog park at Ogden Park. Pet owners are advised to bring their latest rabies vaccination records, or reminder notice with them. The clinic is sponsored jointly by the New Hanover County Health Department/Animal Control Services Division, and the Pre-Veterinary Program at UNC-Wilmington.

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