



News Release

Date: May 21, 2009
To: All Media
From: Mark Boyer, Public Information Officer
Telephone: 910-798-7493
Fax: 910-798-7494
maboyer@nhcgov.com

Re: 13th Rabies Case Confirmed for 2009

(New Hanover County)— New Hanover County Animal Control officers canvassed a Forest Hills neighborhood today following another confirmed case of rabies. A Wayne Drive resident suffered scratches from a raccoon yesterday. Test results confirmed the animal was positive for rabies.

ACS officials were notifying neighborhood residents of the precautions they should take for themselves and their pets. This is the 13th confirmed case for New Hanover County so far this year.

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.

MB