



News Release

Date: April 15, 2009
To: All Media
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Re: 8th Rabies Case Confirmed

(New Hanover County)— Another confirmed case of rabies has increased the number of cases so far this year to eight. A resident of Echo Lane reported witnessing his pet dog fighting with a raccoon in his Glen Meade neighborhood on Saturday. Test results received by New Hanover County Animal Control Services today confirmed the raccoon was positive for the virus.

The dog owner reported handling his pet following the incident. The dog was current on its rabies vaccination and received a booster vaccine. 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-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.

Low cost rabies vaccinations will be offered at the following veterinary hospitals during regular office hours during the week of April 20-25.

This service will be offered at the reduced rate of \$6.00 per animal

Animal Medical Clinic
Capeside Animal Hospital
Carolina Beach Animal Hospital
College Road Animal Hospital

Leonard-Sykes Hospital for Pets
Needham Animal Hospital
N College Road Animal Hospital
Pine Valley Animal Hospital

Dineen Animal Hospital
Four Oaks Pet Hospital
Hanover Regional Animal Hospital
Highsmith Animal Hospital
LaCroix Veterinary Hospital

Port City Animal Hospital
Porter's Neck Veterinary Hospital
Scott's Hill Animal Hospital
The Sound Cat (\$7.50)

The discounted rabies vaccinations are sponsored by the above Veterinary Hospitals and the New Hanover County Health Department Animal Control Services Division

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