



News Release

Date: April 23, 2009
To: All Media
From: Mark Boyer, Public Information Officer
Telephone: 910-798-7493
Fax: 910-798-7494
maboyer@nhcgov.com

Re: 10 Rabies Cases Confirmed for 2009

(New Hanover County)— Another two confirmed cases of rabies have increased the number of occurrences so far this year to ten. Tests returned this week by the state lab say a raccoon and a fox, each of which were found fighting with pet dogs over the weekend, were carriers of the disease.

A dog owner reported on Friday witnessing his pet fighting with a raccoon on Upland Drive. Saturday, a resident of South Bagley Avenue saw his pet dog fighting with a fox. Both residents handled their pets following the incidents and have been advised of their possible exposure. Each dog was current on their rabies vaccinations and received booster shots within 72 hours.

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, but pet owners are advised to ask if additional office charges apply.

Animal Medical Clinic	Leonard-Sykes Hospital for Pets
Capeside Animal Hospital	Needham Animal Hospital
Carolina Beach Animal Hospital	N College Road Animal Hospital
College Road Animal Hospital	Pine Valley Animal Hospital
Dineen Animal Hospital	Port City Animal Hospital
Four Oaks Pet Hospital	Porter's Neck Veterinary Hospital
Hanover Regional Animal Hospital	Scott's Hill Animal Hospital
Highsmith Animal Hospital	The Sound Cat (\$7.50)
LaCroix Veterinary Hospital	

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

MB