



# News Release

Date: March 17, 2009  
To: All Media  
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**Re: 7<sup>th</sup> Rabies Case Confirmed**

(New Hanover County)— New Hanover County has now seen more than 100 cases of confirmed rabies since the disease returned to the area in 1996. Two more rabid raccoons were found over the weekend, and in the discovery a number of police officers and pets were possibly exposed.

Saturday, a resident of Tidefall Court reported a raccoon staggering in their yard. Wilmington police officers, in attempting to capture the animal may have exposed themselves to rabies. Also Saturday, two pet dogs killed a raccoon on Edgewood Road. One of the dogs was current on its vaccination; the other had to be destroyed.

Seven cases of rabies have been confirmed so far this year in New Hanover County bringing the total number of cases to 101 since a rabid bobcat was found in the Castle Hayne area in 1996.

**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.**

A free rabies clinic will be held at New Hanover County Animal Control Services from 1:00 until 3:00 on Saturday, March 21. New Hanover County ACS is located at 180 Division Drive.

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