



News Release

Date: October 15, 2009
To: All Media
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Re: 20th Case of Rabies Confirmed

(New Hanover County)—New Hanover County Animal Control Services has confirmed the 20th positive case of rabies for the year. ACS officers recovered an apparently sick puppy from a Sycamore Street residence on Wednesday after taking the animal to an area emergency clinic. Clinic personnel notified ACS that the puppy was exhibiting neurological signs of the disease.

The puppy was euthanized, and the family, which was exposed to the virus, has been notified. Animal Control officers continue an investigation and are informing all those with possible contact with the puppy and any other pets from the residence of the dangers of exposure.

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.

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 directly after being exposed to wildlife, due the potential for carrying residual saliva from the infected animal. You should stay away from any animal that you have not been cleared to hold or pet, including owned dogs or cats, and especially wildlife. Feeding wildlife is ill advised.

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