



News Release

Date: February 25, 2009
To: All Media
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Re: Rabies Cases Confirmed/Free Clinic Scheduled

(New Hanover County)— New Hanover County pet owners who have not had their dogs, cats or ferrets vaccinated against rabies can protect their animal companions and themselves for free on March 21. 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.

Two cases of rabies confirmed in less than a week shows the disease is still a concern for pet owners and all residents. The most recent case involved a resident of Military Cutoff Road who captured an apparently sick and injured raccoon on Tuesday. Tests confirmed the raccoon was positive for rabies. The owner of two loose dogs running in the area was located and notified of possible exposure. Last Thursday, February 19, Animal Control officers responded to Windmill Way where they found a raccoon staggering in a business area. Employees of a nearby business had been feeding a colony of feral cats in that locale. Nearby businesses and administrators of Noble Middle and Blair Elementary Schools have been notified.

Animal Control officers have been canvassing the areas to educate citizens and business employees of the potential for rabies exposure. Animals that have a current rabies vaccination at the time of exposure should be re-boosted within 72 hours of coming into contact with a rabid animal. It is recommended animals exposed to rabies and which are not current on their rabies vaccination be destroyed. It is not advised residents feed wild animals.

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