



# News Release

Date: March 5, 2009  
To: All Media  
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**Re: Rabies Case Confirmed**

(New Hanover County)— A third case of rabies has been confirmed this year in New Hanover County. Residents of the South Cardinal Drive area notified Animal Control Services of a sick raccoon that had been approaching residents on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The animal was trapped and upon testing, was confirmed to have the rabies virus.

During the investigation, several cats were observed running at large. The owner of the cats was notified of possible exposure and ACS officials are in the process of determining the cats' vaccination histories.

Two other cases of rabies were confirmed in the past several weeks in the Military Cutoff Road and Windmill Way areas where raccoons were found to be vectors of the disease. Animals that have a current rabies vaccination at the time of exposure should be re-boostered 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.

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 later this month. 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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