



News Release

Date: March 16, 2009
To: All Media
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Re: 5th Rabies Case Confirmed

(New Hanover County)— Five cases of rabies have been confirmed so far this year in New Hanover County and that figure could grow before the end of the week. Animal Control Services today confirmed the most recent case of 2009 today after an Old Military Road resident found a dead raccoon on Friday. The residents' three dogs were also in the area of the dead raccoon, however only two of the dogs were vaccinated against the disease. Not certain the third dog came in contact with the raccoon carcass, the owner has agreed to quarantine the third dog for a period of six months

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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