Raccoon tests positive for rabies

Residents advised to ensure pets are current on rabies vaccination

Hendersonville, NC (May 6, 2015) – A raccoon that attacked two pet dogs in the Flat Rock area on Monday, May 4, has tested positive for the rabies virus. County officials received confirmation today from the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health. This is the first positive rabies case in Henderson County this year.

Officials with the Henderson County Sheriff’s Animal Enforcement Division and the Department of Public Health are urging residents to ensure their pet’s rabies vaccination is current and to contact a veterinarian immediately if their pet seems injured from an unknown cause, displays unusual behaviors or appears sick—even if the animal is current on its rabies vaccination.

The affected area is approximately a one mile radius from the exposure and includes the following neighborhoods and roads: Felmet Road, Crest Road, Howard Gap Loop, Ridgeway Drive, Surrett Drive, Solomon Cove, Oak Grove, Tabor Road, Hill Drive and Summit Springs Drive.

It is possible that the raccoon may have had contact with other wild animals. All county residents should be cautious the next several weeks to protect families, neighbors and pets.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease affecting the central nervous system. Rabies can be prevented but not cured. A healthy animal or human can get rabies when bitten, licked or scratched by a sick animal.

Residents in the affected area who have questions may call 828-694-6019. For more information about rabies, visit the Health Department’s website at www.hendersoncountync.org/health.

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