



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Henderson County Department of Public Health

Steven E. Smith, MPA, Health Director | Diana Curran, MD, Medical Director

1200 Spartanburg Highway, Suite 100, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Main Phone: (828) 692-4223 | Administration FAX: (828) 697-4709

Clinic FAX: (828) 697-4691 | Communicable Disease FAX: (828) 697-4504

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Inquiries Please Contact:

Major Frank Stout

Office: 828-450-6791

Raccoon tests positive for rabies

Make sure your pet is up-to-date on its rabies vaccination.

Hendersonville, NC (January 30, 2018) – A raccoon that fought with a pet cat 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. Deputies will be posting flyers and contacting residences within a mile radius of the intersection of St. Paul’s and Beehive Rd in Edneyville.

The event happened Sunday, and the owner shot and killed the raccoon. Both the raccoon and cat were taken to Animal Services, and the raccoon was sent to the state lab. Because the cat had not received the rabies vaccine, it will be euthanized and sent to the state lab to be tested for rabies. The raccoon and/or cat may have interacted with other pets or wild animals in the area, so residents should be alert for any unusual behaviors or sickness in their pets or wildlife.

Anyone who may have had contact with an unfamiliar pet or wild animal recently should contact a Communicable Disease Nurse with the Department of Public Health at 828-694-6019 immediately. If you think your pet was exposed or have questions, call the Henderson County Sheriff Office's Animal Enforcement Division at 697-4911.

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.

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.

For more information about rabies, visit the Health Department’s website at hendersoncountync.org/health and click on the Communicable Disease link.

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