



News Release

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WAKE ISSUES RABIES NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS IN KNIGHTDALE

Rabies Clinic and Animal Health Fair Offers Free Rabies Vaccines Tomorrow

Wake County Animal Control officials has confirmed a case of rabies in a raccoon. On Sunday, March 30, 2013, a person reported that a raccoon interacted with a dog in the 4800 block of Clifton Road in Knightdale. Animal Control responded and the dog was taken to the State Lab in Raleigh for testing and rabies was confirmed today, Friday, April 5, 2013.

"We don't want to alarm residents in Knightdale, but they should be aware of these cases and of the potential for exposure to themselves, family members and their pets," said Sue Lynn Ledford, Community Health director for Wake County. "Rabies vaccination is critical to help to prevent the spread of disease, and rabies vaccination is required by law. This is a great opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of rabies vaccinations for their pets."

In this case, the dog and two other dogs who lived at the same location were unvaccinated and were put down. State law requires potentially rabid pets to be destroyed unless owners agree to support a six-month quarantine. There was no human exposure.

"All types of animals become more active when the weather warms up, many years this leads to increased instances of rabies in the community," said Dr. Jennifer Federico, Animal Services director for Wake County. "Vaccinating pets for rabies is critical to help to prevent the spread of disease, and is required by law in North Carolina."

Animal Control officers are concerned about possible exposure of unvaccinated animals, particularly pets, in the Knightdale area. Anyone who sees an animal acting in an unusual manner is urged to call Wake County Animal Control at 919-212-7387 (PETS).

Wake County Animal Control officials urge the following:

- Residents should not approach animals that they do not know.
- Residents should ensure their pets have a current rabies vaccination. If a pet is allowed outside, a booster vaccine is recommended. Outdoor pets should be kept inside until they receive booster vaccines.
- Do not feed stray or unknown animals, including cats and dogs.
- Do not leave trash or food outside, unless it is in a trash can with a tight-fitting lid.

- If a pet is fed outside, do not leave food out overnight.
- Do not leave pets outdoors unattended.
- If a pet comes in contact with an animal that might be rabid, contact a veterinarian immediately.

To report animal complaints and stray animals:

- In Wake County (except Cary, Garner, Holly Springs and Raleigh), call 919-212-PETS (7387)
- In Cary, call 919-319-4517
- In Garner, call 919-772-8896
- In Holly Springs, call 919-557-9111
- In Raleigh, call 919-831-6311

Wake County will hold its Rabies Clinic and Animal Health Fair tomorrow, Saturday, April 6, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wake County Animal Center, 820 Beacon Lake Dr. Rabies vaccinations will be free on a first-come, first-served basis. All dogs must be on leashes and all cats must be in carriers.

Additional details about the event can be found on the [Wake County Animal Center website](#).

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