



# News Release

## Environmental Services

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 18, 2014

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### **WAKE ISSUES RABIES NOTICE FOR APEX**

*Anyone Bitten or Scratched by Unknown Animals Should Call Animal Control*

Wake County would like to inform people who live in the vicinity Winding Way and Friendship Road in Apex that rabies was confirmed in a raccoon on Friday, January 17, 2014. Wake County Animal Control responded to the case and the raccoon was taken to the State Lab in Raleigh for testing. The raccoon came in contact with a family and their pets.

"We don't want to alarm residents in Apex, 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.

In this case, one of the family pets was not vaccinated for rabies. State law requires potentially rabid pets to be destroyed unless owners agree to support a six-month quarantine.

"All pets are required by law to receive the rabies vaccination. Many people believe that inside pets do not need to be vaccinated for rabies, and that is not the case. Vaccinating your pets is critical in helping prevent the spread of disease," said Wake Environmental Services Director Joseph Threadcraft.

Animal Control officers are concerned about possible exposure of unvaccinated animals, particularly pets, in the Apex area. Anyone who sees an animal acting in an unusual manner is urged to call Wake County Animal Control. 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.
- 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

For more information, visit [wakegov.com/pets/health/rabies](http://wakegov.com/pets/health/rabies).

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