



## NEWS RELEASE

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[wakegov.com/news](http://wakegov.com/news)

### **WAKE ISSUES RABIES NOTICE FOR RESIDENTS IN GARNER**

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

Wake County would like to inform people who live in the vicinity of Wakeland Drive and Long Avenue in Garner that rabies was confirmed in a raccoon on Monday, May 11, 2015. Wake County Animal Control responded to the case, and the raccoon was taken to the State Lab in Raleigh for testing. The raccoon was found at a private property where a dog and three people were exposed.

“It is important that residents in Garner are informed of cases like these. Because these animals were unvaccinated, there is potential for exposure,” said Sue Lynn Ledford, Community Health Director for Wake County.

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

“We encourage pet owners to comply with the North Carolina law and keep their pet’s rabies vaccinations current, including their indoor pets,” said Wake Animal Services Director Dr. Jennifer Federico. “If a pet is exposed to rabies and has up-to-date rabies vaccines, the pet can be taken to their veterinarian for a booster shot.”

Animal Control officers are concerned about possible exposure of unvaccinated animals, particularly pets, in the Garner 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

The next rabies vaccination clinic is on Saturday, May 16 at Ashley Wilder Dog Park, Wilder Nursery Trail, Knightdale. Details can be found on the [Wake County Animal Center website](#). During this clinic rabies vaccines will be available for \$5 and microchips for \$10.

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

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