



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Angela Lee, Health Director
(910) 989-3983
Angela_Lee@onslowcountync.gov

Date: September 15, 2017

For Release: *Immediate*

Rabid Raccoon Confirmed in Onslow County

(Onslow County) Onslow County Animal Services received confirmation from the North Carolina State Laboratory that a raccoon has tested positive for rabies.

Earlier this week, a Stella-area homeowner killed a raccoon that was later sent to the state lab for testing. In addition to the homeowner, two children and one dog were also exposed to the raccoon. One child needed treatment and has received the rabies vaccine. The other people who were exposed have been recommended for treatment. The dog had been vaccinated and is under observation at home.

“Rabies is a deadly disease, so people that have handled or been bitten or scratched by a rabid animal should see a doctor. It is critical to get treatment quickly because people can be protected from rabies if they receive a series of vaccines soon after the exposure. We urge people to let the Health Department, Animal Services, the hospital, or their doctor know if they have been scratched or bitten by or have handled an animal that could be rabid,” explained Lee.

For pets, prevention is key. Howard Martin, the Director of Onslow County Animal Services, advises residents to have their pets vaccinated for rabies and keep children away from stray or wild animals. “Vaccinating pets and staying away from wild animals are the best ways to prevent being exposed to rabies,” said Martin.

Onslow County Animal Services offers a Rabies Clinic for pets every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from noon to 5:00 p.m. at 244 Georgetown Road in Jacksonville. No appointment is necessary, and the cost of the vaccine is \$10 per pet.

For information about vaccinating your pets for rabies, please contact Onslow County Animal Services at (910) 455-0182 or your veterinarian.

--End--