



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Rabies Confirmed in Raccoon Killed by Dog in Bethel Park *Health Department Warns Residents in Area to Take Precautions*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has confirmed that a dead raccoon brought to one of its facilities last weekend has tested positive for rabies. The raccoon was killed by a dog near the 5500 block of Florida Avenue in Bethel Park. The dog was up-to-date on its rabies vaccinations.

“All residents should avoid any kind of contact with wild or stray animals, especially those in the Bethel Park area where the rabid raccoon was located,” said Dr. Karen Hacker, Health Department Director. “If any animal appears to be acting strange or becomes threatening, residents should notify their local animal control service, the police or the Pennsylvania Game Commission immediately.”

Rabies is a virus transmitted by an animal bite or scratch, and exposures due to a bite or scratch are almost always fatal when left untreated. Any individual who is bitten, scratched or otherwise exposed to saliva from a stray or any other animal, should immediately cleanse the contact area with soap and water, seek emergency medical treatment and call the Allegheny County Health Department (412-687-2243) to report the incident.

All county residents should always avoid stray animals and wildlife, even if they appear healthy, to avoid exposure to rabies. Residents should also have their pets vaccinated, and watch for unusual behavior.

This is the second rabid animal reported in Allegheny County in 2018, both raccoons.

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