



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Health Department Advising Millvale Residents of Rabid Animals**

**PITTSBURGH** – The Allegheny County Health Department is advising residents in the Borough of Millvale of rabid animals. A rabid raccoon was found and shot last week. It is believed the raccoon came from an abandoned home, in the 900 block of Obrien Street, located along the woods along the Millvale border.

The Health Department is also reminding all county residents to avoid contact with wild animals or animals they do not know. Residents should have their pets vaccinated for rabies.

“We strongly advise Millvale residents to stay away from wild or stray animals, especially in the area of the abandoned building where the rabid raccoon is believed to have frequented” said Health Department Director, Dr. Karen Hacker. “if animals appear to be acting strangely or become threatening, call your local animal control service, the police or the Pennsylvania Game Commission.”

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.

Rabies is a virus transmitted by an animal bite or scratch. It is almost always fatal when left untreated. However, the rabies vaccine is highly effective when given promptly after an exposure. The best prevention is to avoid stray animals, wild animals, or those acting strangely.

So far this year, four rabid animals have been reported in Allegheny County – a bat in Mt. Lebanon, a bat in Bethel Park, and a raccoon in Verona, all reported in January or February, as well as the raccoon in Millvale.

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