



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Department Advises Public of Rabies Risk in Two Communities

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department is advising the public of two rabies risks that occurred this week. The Department is asking that residents call **412-687-ACHD (2243)** if they had exposure, or are concerned about exposure, to rabies.

A stray cat discovered on Rostock Street on Wednesday in the Spring Hill neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh was found to be rabid. Anyone who had an encounter with the cat in the last ten days that resulted in a scratch, bite or contact with its saliva is urged to contact the Allegheny County Health Department to discuss whether medical treatment should be sought. The cat was described as being a medium-hair cat with black and brown fur.

In another incident yesterday, between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m., a concerned parent observed children petting and feeding baby raccoons in a hollow tree in Dormont Park. The tree was located next to the public restrooms. While the current rabies status of the raccoons is unknown, the Department is working with personnel from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Dormont Borough officials to notify any individuals who may have been in contact with the baby raccoons. Anyone who had an encounter with the baby raccoons is urged to contact the Allegheny County Health Department to have their situation evaluated.

The Health Department reminds all County residents to avoid contact with wild animals or animals they do not know. Residents should have their pets vaccinated, and watch for any unusual behavior.

The latest Spring Hill cat is the seventh reported case of rabies in the County this year. In 2014, reported rabies cases include two cats, a raccoon, three bats, and a groundhog. Last year, a total of 18 rabid animals were reported.

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