



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Rabid Raccoon Found in O'Hara Township, Precautions Urged for Residents

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is informing residents in O'Hara Township of a raccoon that tested positive for rabies. The raccoon was found close to Ruth S. Weir Park on Saxonburg Boulevard.

"We strongly advise residents to steer clear of wild and stray animals, especially those in O'Hara Township in the area where the rabid raccoon was found," said Health Department Director, Dr. Karen Hacker. "If residents see any animal that appears to be acting strange or becomes threatening, they 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. It is almost always fatal when exposures are left untreated. The rabies vaccine is highly effective when given promptly after an exposure, but is still a major expense and inconvenience that can be avoided.

All county residents are reminded to avoid contact with wild animals. Residents should have their pets vaccinated, and watch for unusual behavior. 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-ACHD (2243), to report the incident.

So far in 2017, a total of 13 rabid animals have been reported in Allegheny County: six (6) raccoons, five (5) bats, one (1) cat and one (1) skunk.

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