



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health Department Issues Rabies Precautions for Residents of Wall Borough

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) is advising residents in the Borough of Wall that a feral cat found in the 500 block of Wall Avenue on Saturday, October 15 has tested positive for rabies. Those individuals known to have been exposed to the cat have been advised to seek treatment. Several other feral cats are reportedly living on that block. 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 unusual behavior.

“A kind gesture to help an animal that appears to be hurt or in need can result in exposure to the rabies virus,” said Health Department Director, Dr. Karen Hacker. “We strongly advise Wall residents to stay away from wild or stray animals, especially in the area where the rabid cat was found. If an animal appears to be acting strange or becomes 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-ACHD (2243), to report the incident.

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. The best prevention is to avoid stray animals, wild animals or those acting strangely as they can be potentially rabid.

So far this year, a total of 19 rabid animals have been reported in Allegheny County: three (3) raccoons, 11 bats, two (2) cats, one (1) coyote, and two (2) skunks.

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