
Press Release

NEWS

*Burlington County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Mount Holly, NJ 08060*

*Office of Public Information
Phone 609-265-5028/Fax 609-265-5151
www.co.burlington.nj.us*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

CONTACT: Robert Gogats

OR: Robin Sutton

(609) 265-5548

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS RABID RACCOONS
FOUND IN MEDFORD & MOORESTOWN**

Residents Urged To Avoid Stray and Wild Animals

Burlington County Health Officer Robert Gogats today reported that a raccoon found in the vicinity of East Main Street in Moorestown and another raccoon found in the vicinity of Falls Court in Medford have tested positive for rabies.

Gogats advised residents to keep a safe distance from stray or wild animals and to call their municipality for Animal Control if a stray or wild animal is discovered.

Residents should not feed or try to capture any wildlife or stray animals.

Homeowners who allow their pets to roam outside unattended should check the status of their pets' last rabies shot. If it has been longer than one year, a booster shot should be given.

"Rabies is transmitted from infected mammals to humans usually through a bite, but scratches and saliva contact with broken skin or mucous membranes are also possible routes," said County Health Educator Holly Cucuzzella.

-more-

PRESS RELEASE: Raccoons – 8/2/11 – Add One

“Any person who had direct contact with the raccoon or other wild or stray animals in the areas where these raccoons were found may have been exposed to rabies and should contact their doctor as soon as possible,” she added.

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the nervous system and is fatal in humans without prompt treatment.

The disease is spread when a rabid animal's saliva contacts another animal or human through wounds in the skin, typically a bite.

If bitten, treatment should begin as soon as possible. Current vaccinations are relatively painless and given as close to the injured area as possible.

If bitten, scratched or licked by a wild animal:

- Immediately wash bite wounds with plenty of soap and water
- Get prompt medical attention
- Get a description of the animal
- Report the bite to your local health department

For more information on rabies, visit the county website at:

<http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/upload/Health/Images/rabies2003.PDF>

###