
Press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH OFFICIALS REPORT RABID KITTEN IN BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP

Second Kitten Still “At Large” In The Community

Burlington County Health Officials today reported that a stray kitten recently found in the vicinity of Arrowhead Drive in Burlington Township has tested positive for rabies, and that a second kitten, also suspected to have rabies, is still “at large” in the community.

Residents were asked to be wary of a stray kitten with gray and white markings, but should not attempt to capture the animal. Instead, they should contact Municipal Offices which, in turn, will contact the town’s Animal Control Officer.

The two strays were initially discovered by a resident, who fed them. One of the kittens came into their home, and was subsequently taken to the Animal Shelter in Westampton. The other kitten ran off and has not been found.

The kitten brought to the shelter was submitted for rabies testing and found positive by the State Department of health and Senior Services.

The Health Department warned all residents not to attempt to capture any wildlife or stray animals, but to leave that job to animal control officers under contracts with the towns.

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

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PRESS RELEASE: Rabies – 5/18/12 – Add One

County Epidemiologist Kristen Bartlett said, "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. Any person, who had direct contact with any wild or stray animals within the vicinity of Arrowhead Drive, may have been exposed to rabies. They should contact their doctor as soon as possible."

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, anyone 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 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at: <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>

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