
Press Release

NEWS

Burlington County
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RABID CAT AND RACCOON IDENTIFIED

Residents Encouraged To Avoid Stray and Wild Animals

Within the last week two animals tested positive for rabies in Burlington County. A stray cat found in Vincentown(Main Street area) and a raccoon that was removed from a farm in Springfield Township tested positive for rabies, Burlington County Health Officer Robert Gogats reported today.

Both animals were transferred by local animal control officers to the Burlington County Animal Shelter, and subsequently submitted for rabies testing. Both were reported positive for rabies by the State Department of Health and Senior Services.

While the County has not encountered an unanticipated surge in reported rabies cases, Gogats issued a warning to residents to avoid stray and wild animals.

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PRESS RELEASE: Rabies – Add One – 11/30/10

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

The County Health Department would like to advise all residents to:

- Keep a safe distance from stray and wild animals
- If a stray or wild animal is discovered call the local municipality who will in turn contact Animal Control
- Do not attempt to capture any wildlife or stray animals. Leave that job to the professional Animal Control Officer
- Do not feed any stray or wild animals for your safety and the safety of others
- Make sure all your pets are currently immunized for rabies

The Health Department reported 30 cases of rabies in 2009. To date, 27 cases of rabies have been reported in Burlington County this year.

Anyone in contact with any wild or stray animals should call the Health Department at (609) 265-5523 and ask to speak with Ms. Robin Sutton.

For additional information, on rabies see:

http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/departments/health/information/disease_faq/index.htm.

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