



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MAY 1, 2018

2 CATS TEST POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN FREDERICK CITY AND NEAR BURKITTSVILLE

FREDERICK, MD – On May 1, 2018, the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) received reports from the Maryland Department of Health Rabies Laboratory that two cats from different areas of Frederick County tested positive for the rabies virus. The first cat, from Catholic Church Rd. near Burkittsville is described as a short-haired black female. The second cat was located on 7th Street across from the 7th Street Shopping Center and is described as a long-haired black cat with a white stripe down its back. Both cats attacked their victims and were picked up by Animal Control Officers on April 28, 2018.

The Health Department recommends that any people who may have had contact with either cat since April 14, 2018 should consult their health care provider and notify the FCHD's Community Health Services Office at 301-600-3342. If any pets had contact with either cat, consult with your veterinarian and notify the FCHD's Environmental Health Office at 301-600-1717.

Rabies is a viral disease that primarily infects mammals (warm-blooded animals who nurse their young) and is spread through the saliva of the infected animal, usually via bite. Symptoms of rabies in animals may include fear of water, excessive salivation, failure to eat or drink, limping, unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime. The disease is nearly always fatal to humans unless treatment is obtained soon after exposure.

Barry Glotfelty, Director for the Health Department's Environmental Health Services, advises the public, "to protect your family from possible rabies exposure, do not touch or play with wild or stray animals and make sure that your pets are currently vaccinated." If a stray animal comes on your property, do not attempt to contain it. If you or your pets have contact with a stray or wild animal, call Animal Control at 301-600-1544 to speak with an Animal Control Officer.

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