



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

CONTACT: Brandon Alter
301-600-3112
TTY: 800-735-2258
FCHealthDept@frederickcountymd.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JUNE 25, 2025

Stray cat from Woodsboro Pike, near the southern edge of Woodsboro town limits, tests positive for rabies

FREDERICK, MD – On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) was notified that a stray cat picked up from Woodsboro Pike, near the southern edge of Woodsboro town limits, and the town park tested positive for rabies. Frederick County Animal Control collected the cat on Thursday, June 19, 2025, after showing aggressive behavior, a symptom of rabies infection. The rabid cat is described as an intact male, gray and white, about 8 - 10 years old, and no microchip or ear tip.

The FCHD recommends that people who may have had contact with this cat between **June 5, 2025, and June 19, 2025**, consult their health care provider and notify the FCHD's Community Health Services Office at 301-600-3342. If any pets or livestock had contact with the cat, consult with your veterinarian and notify the FCHD's Environmental Health Office at 301-600-1717.

Rabies is a viral disease that mainly infects mammals and is spread through the saliva of the infected animal, usually by a bite. Symptoms of rabies in animals may include fear of water, excessive salivation, failure to eat or drink, limping, unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, and/or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime. The disease is nearly always fatal to humans if infected and post-exposure treatment is not obtained in a timely manner.

Barry Glotfelty, Director for FCHD's Environmental Health Services, advises, "Rabies can be prevented by avoiding contact with stray or wild animals. Making sure your pets are vaccinated is another key action you can take to protect yourself and others."

The Frederick County Health Department is hosting a rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats and ferrets on June 29th from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Thurmont Community Park.

If you or your pets have contact with a stray or wild animal, report it to Animal Control at 301-600-1544. For more information on rabies, visit Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Rabies.

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Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer



350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702
Phone: 301-600-1029 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3111 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258

