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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

Health Department Asks for Public's Help to Find Stray Cat and Kitten in Thurmont

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) is asking the community's help finding a stray cat and her 10-week-old kitten. These cats have been seen on Apples Church Road, near Seiss Road, Thurmont, Maryland. They have both been exposed to rabies. If you have seen or had contact with the mother or kittens, do not touch them but call the FCHD's Community Health Services Office at 301-600-3342 or contact Animal Control at 301-600-1544.

The mother cat is a short hair calico with a bushy tale. The kitten is black. The cats need to be vaccinated and undergo a quarantine to ensure their health and the health of people around them.

A kitten in the same litter became sick, was caught and taken to the vet, and tested positive for rabies on November 4. Community members and Animal Control staff have been working to trap the kittens and mother cat since then. Three other kittens from the same litter have already been trapped but one kitten and the mother are still out in the community.

The FCHD recommends that people who may have had contact with any of these cats after October 22, 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,

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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."

If you or your pets have contact with a stray or wild animal, report it to Animal Control at 301-600-1544.

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