



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CAT TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN FREDERICK COUNTY



FREDERICK, MD -- On February 19, 2020, the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) received a report from the Maryland Department of Health Rabies Laboratory that a stray cat collected from Gambrill Park Road near Shookstown Road in Frederick, has tested positive for the rabies virus. The cat is described as a white, domestic shorthaired female kitten approximately six months old with tabby spots on its head.

The Health Department recommends that any people who may have had contact with this cat since **January 27, 2020**, consult their health care provider and notify the FCHD's Community Health Services Office at 301-600-3342. If any pets 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 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.

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 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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