



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MARCH 18, 2021

CAT TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN FREDERICK COUNTY

FREDERICK, MD -- On March 18, 2021, the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) received a report that a stray cat collected near the intersection of Walter Martz Road and Yellow Springs Road in Frederick, Maryland, has tested positive for the rabies virus. The cat was collected on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, and is described as a small, adult, female, cream-colored shorthair cat.



The FCHD recommends that any people who may have had contact with this cat between **March 2, 2021, and March 16, 2021**, 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 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.

Barry Glotfelty, Director for FCHD's Environmental Health Services, advises, "Mammals, such as cats, can be infected with the rabies virus so do not touch or play with unknown animals, and make sure your pets are vaccinated." 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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