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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

## **CAT TEST POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN FREDERICK COUNTY**

**FREDERICK, MD** – On September 17, 2021, the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) received a report that a stray cat captured on Hansonville Road in Frederick County, Maryland, tested positive for the rabies virus. The cat attacked a resident on Hansonville Road on Thursday, September 16, 2021. The cat is described as a small, probably young adult, intact male, grey cat with black stripes.

The FCHD recommends that any people who may have had contact with this cat between **September 1, 2021, and September 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 if infected and no prompt post exposure treatment is had.

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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