



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DECEMBER 27, 2024

CAT FROM EAST MOSER ROAD IN FREDERICK COUNTY TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES

FREDERICK, MD – On Friday, December 27, the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) was notified that a cat from the 10th block of East Moser Road, Thurmont, Frederick County, Maryland, tested positive for the rabies virus. Frederick County Animal Control received the cat on Wednesday, December 25, 2024. The cat was euthanized due to unexplained wounds and showing multiple symptoms of rabies infection. The rabies-positive cat is described as a tortoiseshell domestic shorthair female, approximately 2-3 years of age (adult), no collar, no spay scar, and no ear tip.

The FCHD recommends that people who may have had contact with this cat between **December 11, 2024, and December 25, 2024**, 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, or other unusual or atypical behavior. The disease is nearly always fatal to humans once infected if no prompt post-exposure treatment is given.

According to Barry Glotfelty, Director for FCHD's Environmental Health Services, "Mammals 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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