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Frederick County Health Department

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **2024 Rabid Animal Update for Frederick County**

**FREDERICK, MD** —The Frederick County Health Department Environmental Health Division has released the list of animals that tested positive for rabies in 2024 in Frederick County. A map and table of the data from 2018-2024 is available [here](#).

A total of 34 animals tested positive for rabies in Frederick County in 2024 and more than 250 animals were tested. Raccoons were the most common type of animal to test positive for rabies with 21 raccoons testing positive. There were also 4 cats, 4 skunks, 3 groundhogs, 1 cow and 1 fox that tested positive for rabies in Frederick County in 2024.

Rabies is a viral disease that mainly infects mammals that is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal, generally through a bite or scratch exposure. You can also be exposed to rabies by getting saliva from an infected animal into an open wound, in the eyes, nose, or mouth. Rabies cannot be spread by petting an infected animal or touching the animal's bodily fluids, including skunk spray. Rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms start to show in humans, but treatment can prevent illness and death.

You can help keep animals and people in Frederick County safe by getting pets vaccinated, especially outdoor cats since they may interact with more wild animals than indoor pets. The health department recommends only watching wildlife from a distance and not touching them. It is also important to call Frederick County Animal Control at 301-600-1544 and get proper medical attention if you are bitten or scratched.

To speak to a nurse about a possible rabies exposure, call the health department at 301-600-3342. For general questions about rabies call 301-600-1717 or visit [Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Rabies](https://Health.FrederickCountyMD.gov/Rabies).

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