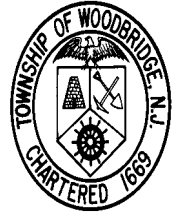


NEWS



TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 17, 2017

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WOODBIDGE TWP. ISSUES RABIES ALERT Raccoon Found in Woodbridge Proper Tests Positive for Rabies

Woodbridge Township -- The Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services has been notified of a positive case of rabies in a raccoon trapped on July 10, 2017 in the vicinity of East Smith Street in the Woodbridge proper section of the Township.

The Woodbridge Township Animal Control Division responded to a report of raccoon that was observed along East Smith Street that appeared sick and was acting in an abnormal manner during daylight hours. The responding Animal Control officer was able to net and capture the raccoon. Subsequent investigation determined that there was no indication that the raccoon had come into contact with any resident or domestic pet. The raccoon carcass was transported to the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) forensic laboratory for standard rabies evaluation. The DOH advised Woodbridge Animal Control on Mon., July 17, 2017 that the raccoon had tested positive for rabies.

Dennis M. Green, Director of the Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services, urges caution when encountering suspect animals and recommends the following health information and precautionary measures:

1. Residents in/near the East Smith Street neighborhood in Woodbridge proper who may have observed or come into close contact with the animal should contact the Health Department at: 732-855-0600 x5007.
2. Rabies can affect any warm-blooded animal. **DO NOT** come in close contact with stray or wild animals and **DO NOT** let children play with or feed wildlife. Make sure trash, garbage and recycling containers are closed tightly.
3. Be cautious when you observe wildlife acting erratically, as an animal affected with rabies will deviate from normal behavior. If you see a wild animal acting in an erratic or unusual manner, contact the Health Department/Animal Control at: 732-855-0600, Ext 5007.
4. Make sure pets are current with their rabies vaccine. If they are not current, please take them to your veterinarian immediately for a rabies vaccine.
5. **DO NOT** feed pets outside. This will attract wildlife to your home.
6. If you are bitten by an animal, especially one that is acting erratic or unusual, contain the animal if you can do so safely or get a good description of the animal for later identification, cleanse the wound, seek medical attention, and contact the Health Department at 732-855-0600, Ext 5007.

For more information contact the Woodbridge Township Health Department at 732-855-0600 x5027 or the New Jersey Department of Health web page at www.state.nj.us/health.