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|  | *RAPPAHANNOCK-RAPIDAN HD News Release* |
| 109 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219 ● **www.vdh.virginia.gov** |

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**Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District Advises**

**District Residents of Rabid Raccoon in Fauquier County**

***Rabid Raccoon found in the vicinity of Grays Mill Rd and Wilshire Dr, Warrenton Va.***

(Warrenton, Va.) -- To protect the health of our residents and visitors, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District (RRHD) is issuing a notice about a raccoon testing positive for rabies found near the intersection of Grays Mill Road and Wilshire Drive in Warrenton Virginia.

Fauquier Animal Control collected the raccoon on Sunday, August 27 after a local resident reported it was in contact with their dog. On Monday, August 28, the local health department submitted the raccoon to the Virginia State Laboratory for rabies testing. The raccoon was reported positive for the rabies virus on Wednesday, August 30. The local health department has contacted all identified individuals who may have had contact with the raccoon and has assessed individual needs for rabies post-exposure shots.

The RRHD reminds everyone, the importance of not feeding wildlife and leaving wild animals alone. It is important to keep pets and livestock up to date on their rabies vaccinations. When a domestic animal with a current rabies vaccination is exposed to a rabid animal, they will only require a rabies booster vaccination and 45-day observation following the exposure. Exposed unvaccinated domestic animals can be isolated for up to six months in strict confinement per the Code of Virginia. If you own a pet or regularly feed/care for feral/farm cats, please make sure you get them vaccinated for rabies. There is no approved post exposure vaccine or treatment for domestic animals, and rabies is nearly 100% fatal once symptoms begin. Rabies vaccines are inexpensive and highly effective at preventing the spread of rabies.

Individuals bitten or scratched by a wild or unknown animal should report the bite to local animal control and contact their primary health care provider or local health department for further evaluation and medical recommendations. To report an animal bite or possible rabies exposure incident, contact the Fauquier Environmental Health Office at (540) 347-6363, or Fauquier Animal Control at (540) 347-3300.

For more information on Animal Bites and Rabies, visit [Animal Bites and Rabies - Rappahannock Rapidan (virginia.gov)](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/rappahannock-rapidan/animal-bites-and-rabies/#AnimalBites), [Rabies Control - Animal Contact & Human Health (virginia.gov)](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/animal-contact-human-health/rabies-control/). For additional information about the Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District, the communities we serve and telephone numbers for local offices, visit [www.RRHD.org](http://www.RRHD.org)

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