DOH-St. Johns Issues Rabies Alert

Contact:

Lana Sample @FLHealth.gov 904-506-6081



St. Johns County, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County (DOH-St. Johns) is issuing a rabies alert in St. Johns County in response to a confirmed case of rabies in an unvaccinated cat that was found in the Old Moultrie Road area off State Road 207 in St. Johns County on June 9, 2025. DOH-St. Johns is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies is currently present in the wild animal population.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals (e.g., raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats, coyotes), which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment. If you are exposed to rabies, receiving appropriate treatment after exposure will protect you from the risk of rabies.

This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in St. Johns County:

- Northern boundary: King St.
- Southern boundary: State Road 312
- Eastern boundary: Intercoastal Waterway
- Western boundary: Osceola Elementary Road

Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact St. Johns County Animal Control at 904-209-0746.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract
 them with outdoor pet food, open garbage cans, or other sources of food. If you have
 been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report
 the injury to DOH-St. Johns by calling 904-506-6081.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead, contact a <u>licensed</u> wildlife rehabilitator.
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact St. Johns County Animal Control at 904-209-0746.
- Prevent wildlife, including <u>bats</u>, from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For more information on rabies, please visit <u>FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies</u> or contact DOH-St. Johns at 904-506-6081.

###

About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

Follow us on X at <u>@HealthyFla</u> and on <u>Facebook</u>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health, visit <u>FloridaHealth.gov</u>.