March 30, 2018

RACCOON TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES
ACREAGE

Contact:
Public Information
Press50@flhealth.gov  561-671-4014

PALM BEACH COUNTY- Florida Department of Health Laboratory confirmed today that a raccoon acting aggressive in the Acreage and captured by Animal Care and Control has tested positive for rabies.

Animal Care & Control was notified Tuesday, March 27, that a raccoon in the 13000 block of 42nd Road was acting aggressive toward residents and acting erratic in a pond. When the Animal Control Officer arrived it came out of the bushes and tried to attack the officer who was able to capture and euthanize the raccoon. There were no human exposures however, a goat was attacked and bitten earlier. The goat will be placed in six-month double cage quarantine and monitored by Department of Agriculture or euthanized as it had no rabies vaccines.

According to the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County this is the third confirmed rabid animal this year in the county. Residents in the area of 42nd Road in the Acreage are cautioned to avoid contact with any wildlife and report suspicious animals to Animal Care and Control.

Rabies is a disease of the nervous system and is fatal to warm blooded animals and humans. The only treatment for human exposure to rabies is rabies-specific immune globulin and rabies immunization. Appropriate treatment started soon after the exposure will protect an exposed person from the disease.

The following advice is issued:

• Keep rabies vaccinations up to date for all pets.
• Keep your pets under direct supervision so they do not come in contact with wild animals. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Animal Care & Control at 561-233-1200.
• Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood.
• Spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or regularly vaccinated.
• Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.
• Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.
• Teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
• Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For further information on rabies, go to the Florida Department of Health website: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html or contact the Florida Health Palm Beach County, 561-840-4500. Animals exhibiting signs of sickness and aggressive behavior should be reported to Animal Control at 561-233-1200.

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