



DAVIDSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Protecting, Caring, Serving Our County

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 24, 2025

For release: Immediately

Confirmed Rabies Case in Davidson County - Community Awareness needed

The Davidson County Health Department has confirmed a positive rabies case in the Southmont community, off Riverview Rd., marking the third confirmed case in the county this year.

Reports provided to the health department indicate over the past several weeks, multiple feral cats had been seen and fed by a resident of the area. One of the cats, which appeared to have a leg wound, initially seemed to be healing. However, on September 21, 2025, the resident noticed the same cat displaying unusual behavior. Animal Control was contacted and removed the animal from the property. The cat was sent to the State Lab for testing, where it was confirmed to have the rabies virus. All individuals who may have been exposed to the cat have been notified and referred for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

If you see an unfamiliar or wild animal near or around your home, contact Animal Control for assistance. The rabies virus is spread through saliva of an infected animal. The rabies virus is 99.9% fatal in humans who do not seek immediate post-exposure treatment. Davidson County Animal Control is working with the Health Department to trap additional feral cats near the site of the incident due to high risk for exposure to the deadly rabies virus.

Public Health Guidance

- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not feed, handle, or approach animals you do not know.
- Report exposures immediately. All animal bites—domestic or wild—must be reported to the health department by law.
- Vaccinate pets. North Carolina law requires that all dogs, cats, and ferrets be vaccinated for rabies by four months of age and remain up to date.

Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination

The Davidson County Animal Shelter provides rabies vaccinations for \$5.00 at 490 Glendale Road, Lexington, NC, Monday–Friday, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Residents are strongly encouraged to review their pets' records and update vaccines if needed

Residents in the area should stay alert and take steps to protect themselves and their pets. A notice will be mailed to households within a one-mile radius of the incident.

For media inquiries related to the press release contact: janna.walker@davidsoncountync.gov.

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