



DAVIDSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Protecting, Caring, Serving Our County

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: October 16, 2025

For release: Immediately

Raccoon Tests Positive for Rabies

The Davidson County Health Department has received test results confirming a positive rabies case after an incident earlier this week off Stemp Everhart Rd. in Thomasville. This is the fifth positive case of rabies this year, the second in one week. We strongly encourage all pet owners in Davidson County to check their pets' vaccination status.

According to reports given the Davidson County Health Department, a recently adopted dog, which had no documented medical history or rabies vaccination, was involved in a physical altercation with a raccoon on the property. A resident of the home killed the raccoon and promptly notified Davidson County Animal Control. The raccoon was removed from the property and sent to the North Carolina State Laboratory for rabies testing. Test results confirming the rabies virus were received on October 15, 2025. Due to the dog's unknown vaccination status and the confirmed rabies exposure, the animal was humanely euthanized in accordance with state public health guidelines. Additionally, one resident who may have been exposed has begun post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatment.

Rabies is a serious and potentially fatal virus. The Davidson County Health Department urges all pet owners to ensure their animals are up to date on rabies vaccinations. If you see an unfamiliar or wild animal near or around your home, contact Animal Control for assistance. Monitor pets and children while they are outdoors, as 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.

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. The Davidson County Animal Shelter provides low-cost rabies vaccinations at 490 Glendale Road, Lexington, NC, Monday–Friday.

For more information visit: <https://www.co.davidson.nc.us/149/Animal-Shelter>

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

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