



DAVIDSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Protecting, Caring, Serving Our County

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NEWS RELEASE

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DAVIDSON COUNTY REPORTS SECOND CASE OF RABIES FOR 2020

On September 3, 2020 a Davidson County resident was opening the tailgate of a truck, when a bat flew out and made physical contact with the individual's ankle leaving visible marks. The bat was taken to the Davidson County Animal Shelter and lab results received on September 4, 2020 confirmed that the bat was positive for rabies. The individual who was directly exposed to the bat has been referred to their medical provider for necessarily follow up.

Bats are common in North Carolina, and known to carry the rabies virus. If you find a bat in your home, do not touch the bat. Rather than handling the bat, isolate the bat to one room, leave the room and close the doors. Do not try to remove the bat yourself, a bite or scratch from a bat may not be visible but may result in transmission of disease, including the rabies virus. If you do find a bat in your home, including waking up to a bat in your bedroom, contact Davidson County Animal Control at 336-249-0131 to capture the bat and remove it from your home for testing.

To protect yourself, family, friends and pets, beware of wild animals, especially those out during the daytime. Stay away from animals you do not know. If your vaccinated pet comes in contact with a wild animal, seek care from a veterinarian as a rabies booster vaccine for your pet may be needed—never touch a dead wild animal with your bare hands.

If you see stray dogs, cats, or wildlife in your neighborhood, call Davidson County Animal Control at 336-249-0131. If you have questions regarding your own exposure to any animal, please contact your healthcare provider to discuss your situation.

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