



DAVIDSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Protecting, Caring, Serving Our County

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PRESS RELEASE

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For release: Immediately

Davidson County Confirms First Positive Rabies Case of 2026

The Davidson County Health Department has confirmed the first positive rabies case of 2026 following two fox attacks that occurred on June 5 in areas approximately one mile apart—one within the City of Lexington and one in Davidson County. Both attacks were unprovoked, and the fox escaped capture after each bite. The following day, in the general area, a fox exhibiting unusual behavior was captured and tested for the rabies virus. While the exact animal involved in each incident cannot be confirmed, the close timing and proximity strongly suggest the same fox was responsible.

Both individuals who were bitten have begun the appropriate rabies post-exposure treatment.

Rabies is a severe and almost always fatal virus if post-exposure treatment is not started promptly. The virus is spread through the saliva of infected animals, most commonly through bites. This incident is a reminder: rabid animals may travel some distance; inflicting wounds on humans, pets, and/or other animals along the way. It is very important to adhere to North Carolina laws requiring rabies vaccines to protect your pets and reporting animal bites to the local health department.

Public Health Guidance

- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not feed, handle, or approach unfamiliar animals.
- Report all animal bites immediately. North Carolina law requires reporting of any bite—domestic or wild—to the health department.
- Vaccinate pets. State law requires all dogs, cats, and ferrets to be vaccinated for rabies by four months of age and to remain current on vaccinations.
- Low-cost rabies vaccinations for pets are available at the Davidson County Animal Shelter, 490 Glendale Road, Lexington, Monday–Friday. More information: <https://www.co.davidson.nc.us/149/Animal-Shelter>

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