



NEWS RELEASE

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RSA Tower 201 Monroe Street, Suite 914 Montgomery, AL 36104

Phone 334-206-5300 Fax 334-206-5534

www.adph.org

Rabid raccoon in Macon County prompts reminder to immunize pets

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Steve Hapel
(334) 738-3030

The discovery of a rabid raccoon in Shorter prompts health department officials to warn area residents to have their pets immunized and to avoid handling bats, wildlife and stray animals.

The raccoon was involved with a fight with a pet dog on Nov. 6. The dog then brought the raccoon onto the owner's front porch where the raccoon was bagged, reported to the Macon County Health Department and taken to the Alabama Department of Public Health's Bureau of Clinical Laboratories. The raccoon has been confirmed positive for rabies.

Environmentalist Steve Hapel of the Macon County Health Department cautions the public to keep their dogs on a leash if they are outside the house and to avoid needless physical contact with wildlife.

Dr. John Kelliher, associate state public health veterinarian, stated, "Vaccination of domestic dogs and cats against rabies remains the best method of providing a protective buffer between wildlife rabies and humans. State law requires that dogs and cats 3 months of age and older be vaccinated for rabies annually."

11/12/04