



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 bat in Colbert County prompts reminder to immunize pets

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Jeff Black

(256) 383-1231, ext. 3527

(256) 246-1727

Jamey Congleton

(256) 383-1231, ext. 3530

(256) 412-1907 (cell)

The discovery of a rabid bat in Colbert County prompts health department officials to warn area residents to have their pets immunized and to avoid handling bats, wildlife and stray animals. The rabid bat, which had been played with by a pet cat, has been confirmed positive for rabies.

Environmentalist Jeff Black of the Colbert County Health Department 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."

Rabies is a disease of all warm-blooded mammals, including man, and is universally fatal to humans if specialized anti-rabies treatment is not obtained immediately.

Raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks are most often responsible for transmitting the virus to domesticated animals and humans.