



COUNTY OF LINCOLN, NORTH CAROLINA

650 JOHN HOWELL MEMORIAL DRIVE, LINCOLNTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28092

ANIMAL SERVICES

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Lincoln County has First Confirmed Rabies Case of 2017

A cat surrendered to Animal Services in late April from Green Street in Lincolnton has tested positive for rabies. The cat had been at Animal Services since April 25th, and was sent for rabies testing on Monday, May 15th, after its behavior and health had declined. On Wednesday May 17th the test results came back from the NC Laboratory of Public Health, and the confirmation of rabies was made. This is the first positive rabies result in Lincoln County in 2017.

The cat was an outdoor cat, and was surrendered after sustaining an injury of unknown origin, which is now likely attributed to a bite from a rabid animal. While the cat was not shedding rabies virus while out in the community, other animals in the area may have come into contact with the same rabid animal that attacked this cat. Animal Services is asking residents in this area to be particularly vigilant and cautious of animals, both domestic and wild in this area.

Animal Control Officers are visiting the area where the cat was surrendered from, to inform residents in the immediate vicinity. Lincoln County Animal Services would like to remind residents that rabies vaccination for dogs, cats, and ferrets over the age of 4 months is required by law. If exposed to rabies and not currently vaccinated, state law requires the animal be destroyed, or quarantined for a period of six months. A current rabies vaccination is lifesaving for animals that are exposed to rabies. Ensuring that pets are currently vaccinated not only protects them, but helps to protect public health, and the health and safety of owners and the community.

To keep yourself safe, don't approach or handle wildlife or stray animals. Signs of rabies can include abnormal amounts of aggression or friendliness, disorientation, wobbliness, circling, and excessive salivation. If you see or come into contact with an animal that may be sick, or is exhibiting signs of abnormal behavior, call Animal Services at (704) 736-4125, or dial 911 to report it.

Additional Information: 1 year rabies vaccinations for cats and dogs are available for \$7 at Lincoln County Animal Services, 650 John Howell Memorial Drive, Lincolnton NC. Please visit us Monday-Friday, between the hours of 8am-5pm to have your pets vaccinated. Alternatively, 1 year and 3 year vaccines are also available through your local veterinarian. Our next rabies clinic will also be held on June 24th at West Lincoln Animal Hospital, between 12-4pm.

Please call LCAS at 704-736-4125 for more information