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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lincoln County Positive Rabies Case

(Lincolnton) Lincoln County Animal Services has confirmed the County's first rabies case of 2025. On Thursday, January 2nd, a raccoon was killed by a dog owner after having an altercation with two dogs on Philadelphia Church Road in Lincolnton; both dogs were current on their rabies vaccination. The raccoon was submitted to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies testing on Monday, January 6th. On Wednesday, January 8th, Lincoln County Animal Services received confirmation of a positive rabies test for the raccoon.

We recommend all pet owners ensure their indoor and outdoor animals are kept current on their rabies vaccination and take advantage of vaccination opportunities through Lincoln County Animal Services and low-cost clinics sponsored by Helping Animals to Survive (HATS). Lincoln County residents may schedule an appointment with Lincoln County Animal Services to receive a 1-year rabies vaccination for \$7 per pet. To keep yourself safe, don't approach or handle wildlife. Signs of rabies in wild animals can include abnormal amounts of aggression or friendliness, disorientation, wobbliness, circling, and excessive salivation. If you see or encounter a wild animal that may be sick, or is exhibiting signs of abnormal behavior, call Animal Services at (704) 736-4125 to report it.

Resources for rabies vaccination:

Lincoln County Animal Services: <https://www.lincolncountync.gov/702/Animal-Services>

Helping Animals to Survive (HATS): <https://www.hatsalive.org/calendar-2/>