



ALAMANCE COUNTY

Health Department

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Second Rabies Case of 2017 Confirmed in Alamance County

BURLINGTON – The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health in Raleigh has confirmed Alamance County’s second rabies case for the year.

A bat was found alive at a house on Charlotte Lane in Burlington. The bat was euthanized and sent to the State Laboratory for Public Health for testing on August 7st. On August 8th the State Lab confirmed that the bat had rabies. The homeowner’s child and dog had been playing outside in the area the bat was found and the health department is working with the family to assess potential exposure to the child and dog. The dog is current for its rabies vaccine.

“If you find a bat in your home, isolate it to one room, leave the room and close the doors,” states Director of Environment Health Carl Carroll. “And proceed to call animal control to capture the bat for testing.”

Human rabies infection is very rare. Of those cases involving humans in the United States, unrecognized exposures to bats (bat variant rabies) is typically identified. You may not recognize a bat bite or scratch, because the wounds caused are so small. Most bats do not carry rabies in North Carolina; only about 3 percent of bats are infected. A rabies diagnosis can’t be made by looking at an animal, therefore animals must be assumed to be infected with rabies until a laboratory-confirmed diagnosis is made. Last year 26 bats tested positive for rabies in North Carolina.

“This is also a good reminder that it is NC Law for dogs and cats to be vaccinated for rabies,” added Carroll. “Vaccinating your pets protects them and ultimately protects your family, too.”

Burlington Pet Adoption Center at 221 Stone Quarry Rd, Haw River will hold a rabies vaccination and microchip clinic Saturday, August 12th from 9:00 am-11:00 am. \$5 per pet for Rabies vaccination. All cats must be in carriers and dogs on leashes.

Last year, Alamance County had one confirmed case of rabies in an animal and the total number of cases in North Carolina was 251.

For more information or questions about rabies control and vaccinations requirements, contact the health department’s Environmental Health office at (336) 570-6367.



**Committed to Protecting and Improving the
Public’s Health in Alamance County**