



**TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Raccoons Test Positive for Rabies in Hanover Township**

September 14, 2017 – The Hanover Township Health Department has issued a rabies advisory to residents. The Health Department recently received one report of a raccoon acting aggressively; however, the raccoon escaped before it could be captured for rabies testing. Subsequently, two raccoons which were captured in the Township tested positive for rabies. “Residents are urged to ensure that their family pets are currently immunized for rabies and not to approach wildlife, particularly if the animal appears sick or injured” said Carlos Perez, Jr., the Township’s Health Officer.

Raccoons are common carriers of rabies. Rabies is a potentially deadly disease caused by a virus. The virus is found in the saliva of rabid animals and is transmitted by bites, scratches, or possibly by contamination of open cuts or eyes with saliva from an animal infected with rabies. Common carriers of the virus are raccoons, skunks, foxes, woodchucks, bats, and feral (stray) unvaccinated animals.

Once an animal becomes infected with rabies it may display aggressive behavior, may appear to be drunk or injured, and/or have trouble walking. Rabid animals may attempt to bite or attack people and domestic animals. Other signs of rabies infection include disorientation, loss of appetite, excessive irritability, unusual vocalization, abnormal behavior, restlessness, jumping at noises, excessive salivation, tremors, convulsions, or paralysis. However, some rabid animals do not display any signs of illness. The Hanover Township Health Department recommends the following precautions to protect yourself and your family from possible exposure:

- Avoid direct contact with wild or stray animals.
- Do not feed or touch wild animals.
- Do not allow your cats or dogs to have contact with wild animals.
- Vaccinate your pets against rabies and keep vaccinations up-to-date.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.

- Do not feed wildlife and do not leave pet food outdoors for extended periods. Immediately clean-up any spills from exterior bird feeders.
- Ensure that garbage stored outdoors is inaccessible to wildlife. Use tight-fitting lids on garbage cans containing food waste and whenever possible, keep such garbage indoors until collection day.
- Report all injuries and bites to persons or domestic animals to the Township of Hanover Health Department.

Residents are encouraged to be alert and to report any sick or injured animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, woodchucks, bats, and feral (stray) animals to the Hanover Township Police Department at 973-428-2512. Information on rabies is available on the Hanover Township website at [www.hanovertownship.com](http://www.hanovertownship.com). Residents may also call the Hanover Township Health Department at 973-428-2484 for additional information.

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