



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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July 3, 2018

Contact: Ryan Scarpino
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312 (office)
412-339-7995 (cell)
ryan.scarpino@alleghenycounty.us

Rabies Confirmed in Groundhog Killed by Dog in Mount Lebanon; Health Department Warns Residents in Area to Take Precautions

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has confirmed that a dead groundhog brought to one of its facilities has tested positive for rabies. The groundhog was killed by a dog near the 500 block of Sleepy Hollow Road in Mount Lebanon.

Rabies is a virus transmitted by an animal bite or scratch, and exposures due to a bite or scratch are almost always fatal when left untreated. Any individual who is bitten, scratched, or otherwise exposed to saliva from a stray or any other animal should immediately cleanse the contact area with soap and water, seek emergency medical treatment, and call the Allegheny County Health Department (412-687-2243) to report the incident.

All county residents should always avoid stray animals and wildlife, even if they appear healthy, to avoid exposure to rabies. It's also very important for residents to have their pets vaccinated and to watch for unusual behavior. If any animal appears to be acting strange or becomes threatening, residents should notify their local animal control service, the police, or the Pennsylvania Game Commission immediately.

This is the ninth rabid animal reported in Allegheny County so far in 2018: four (4) raccoons, four (4) bats, and one (1) groundhog.

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Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, Director

Allegheny County Health Department – Public Information Office

542 Fourth Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-687-ACHD (2243) | Fax: 412-578-8325 | www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment

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