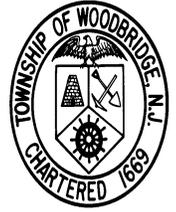


NEWS



TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WOODBIDGE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ISSUES RABIES ALERT

Feral Cat Found in Iselin Tests Positive for Rabies

Woodbridge Township - The Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services – Animal Control Division has been notified of a positive case of rabies in a feral cat recovered on October 7, 2022 in the vicinity of Edward Street in the Iselin section of Woodbridge Township.

The Woodbridge Township Animal Control Division responded to a report of a feral calico-colored cat that appeared sick and was acting in an abnormal manner during daylight hours in the vicinity of Edward Street. The responding Animal Control officer was able to locate and capture the feral cat and the specimen was transported to the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) forensic laboratory for standard rabies evaluation. The DOH advised the Animal Control Division on Wed., Oct. 12, 2022 that the feral cat had tested positive for rabies. Additionally, the NJDOH veterinarian instructed the Animal Control Division to locate and capture any feral cats from the Edward Street colony, as the colony has most likely been exposed to the rabies virus.

Philip Bujalski, Director of the Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services, reported that subsequent investigation by the Animal Control Division determined that two Edward Street residents had been bitten/scratched by the cat; the residents were instructed to seek immediate medical attention and to undertake the prescribed rabies immune serum and vaccination protocol(s). The residents' health condition(s) will be monitored by the Department of Health.

The Department of Health & Human Services urges caution when encountering suspect animals and recommends the following health information and precautionary measures:

- Residents in/near the Edward Street neighborhood in the Iselin section of Woodbridge Township and who may have observed or come into close contact with any of the neighborhood feral cats should contact the Health Department at: 732-855-0600 x5007;
- Rabies can affect any warm-blooded animal (raccoon, fox, skunk, groundhog, dogs or cats). **DO NOT** come in close contact with stray or wild animals and **DO NOT** let children play with or feed feral cats and/or wildlife. Make sure trash, garbage and recycling containers are closed tightly;
- Be cautious when you observe feral cats and/or wildlife acting erratically, as an animal affected with rabies will deviate from normal behavior. If you see a wild animal acting in an erratic or unusual manner, contact the Health Department/Animal Control at: 732-855-0600, Ext 5007;

- Make sure pets are current with their rabies vaccine. If they are not current, take them to your veterinarian immediately for a rabies vaccine;
- If you are bitten by an animal, especially one that is acting erratic or unusual, contain the animal if you can do so safely or get a good description of the animal for later identification, cleanse the wound, seek medical attention and contact the Health Department at 732-855-0600, Ext 5007.

For more information, contact the Woodbridge Township Health Department at 732-855-0600 x5007 or the New Jersey Department of Health web page at www.state.nj.us/health.

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