

Salem County Department of Health and Human Services

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Confirmed Rabies Case Sends 17-Year Old to Cooper Hospital for Precautionary Treatment

A stray cat that bit a 17-year old in Upper Pittsgrove was confirmed to have rabies after it was sent to the state lab for testing, Salem County health officials announced today. The child was immediately sent to Cooper Hospital for precautionary treatment.

This is the fourth confirmed rabies case in Salem County this year.

The stray cat was picked up by a family in Upper Pittsgrove Township on Memorial Day Weekend. The family said the cat was acting strangely, and took it to their veterinarian in Gloucester County, where it was euthanized. The Gloucester County Health Department sent the specimen to the state for testing, where it was confirmed positive for the rabies virus on June 23rd. The cat bit a 17-year family member while in the home. The child is being treated and evaluated at Cooper Hospital as a precaution. The Salem County Department of Health and Human Services is working closely with the NJ Department of Health and the family on this case.

Caution should always be used around wild animals but especially around animals acting oddly. Animals infected with rabies may have behavior that ranges from lethargic to agitated. Wild animals may display an unusual lack of fear of enemies.

If you see a wild animal acting strangely on your property or near pets, call animal control. Any animal bite should be reported to your local health department and evaluated by a doctor. For more information about rabies, go to; <http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/rabies/index.shtml> or call the Salem County Department of Health and Human Services at 856-935-7510.

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