Rabies Case in Fresno County

On October 9, 2019, the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) received a report of a positive case of rabies in a domestic cat that bit a Fresno County resident. Rabies is a very serious disease and is almost always fatal if not treated before symptoms appear.

This is the first confirmed case of feline rabies in Fresno County since 1943. This is a reminder for residents, that Fresno County is identified by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a rabies endemic area in the state. Although not mandated, it is highly recommended to have your cat vaccinated for rabies.

Rabies remains a concern among wild mammals in Fresno County, especially among bats and skunks. While any mammal can be infected with the rabies virus, bats are the most common mammal in Fresno County that carry rabies. In 2018 and 2019, six (6) bats tested positive for rabies in Fresno County.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the rabies virus infects the central nervous system of humans and animals. If a person does not receive the appropriate medical care after a potential rabies exposure, the virus can cause disease in the brain, ultimately resulting in death.

The opportunity below has been scheduled to conduct interviews, obtain photographs and video.

Media Availability

WHAT: Rabies in Fresno County

WHERE: Fresno County Department of Public Health
1221 Fulton Street
Fresno, CA 93721

WHEN: Thursday, October 17, 2019

TIME: 10:00am – 10:30am (Media check-in)
10:30am – 11:30am (B-roll and interviews)

WHO: Dr. LeeAnn DuMars, Veterinarian, Pet Medical Center and Spa
Teri Rockhold, Director, Fresno Animal Humane Services
Dr. Al Saghbini, Public Health Physician, FCDPH
Wayne Fox, Environmental Health Division Manager, FCDPH
Leticia Berber, Health Educator, Community Health, FCDPH (Spanish)

To report a bite on your pet, please call Fresno County Animal Control at (559) 600-PETS (7387). If you or a family member has been bit by your pet or a wild animal, please call your Health Care Provider immediately.

For more information on rabies call (559) 600-3332 or visit www.fcdph.org/PETS.

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Promotion, preservation and protection of the community’s health
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(559) 600-3200 · FAX (559) 600-7687
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