Public Health Notice – Cat with Rabies

On October 23, 2011 an ill cat was found in the 400 block of Las Palmas Drive. The animal expired, and is now confirmed to have had the rabies virus. The cat was a domestic shorthair black female, estimated to be about one year old. If you or someone you know was the owner of this cat, please contact Disease Control at the number below.

We are asking persons living in the neighborhood to be aware of any unusual behavior in animals, both domesticated and wild. The rabies virus is known to be endemic in bats in this area, and can also infect cats, dogs, and humans. Characteristics of an infected animal include aggressive behavior, severe illness, and foaming at the mouth. The virus is transmitted via the saliva of a rabid animal and people exposed to infected fluids, whether through an animal bite or other contact, need immediate medical care. The Public Health Department recommends that individuals exposed to infected fluids get a series of 4 vaccination shots to prevent the virus from causing illness.

If you are aware of an animal in your neighborhood which is ill or exhibiting strange behavior, please call Animal Services at (805) 681-5285.

If you are concerned you may have had exposure to the cat which expired from Rabies, please call Disease Control at (805) 681-5280.

Animal Services reminds all cat and dog owners of the importance of obtaining a valid rabies vaccination for their pets. Rabies vaccinations are required for all dogs over 4 months of age, as well as a current dog license. Rabies vaccinations are highly recommended for cats over the age of 4 months.

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