



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

Cat Tests Positive for Rabies in Frederick County

FREDERICK, MD – On February 9, 2024, the Frederick County Health Department (FCHD) was notified that a cat found on Talbot Run Road near Black Ankle Road, in Frederick County, Maryland, tested positive for the rabies virus. The cat had been quarantining at Frederick County Animal Control since February 5, 2024, and was tested for rabies after developing neurological signs. The rabies-positive cat is shown here in the picture and is described as an approximately 4-year-old, black, domestic shorthair, intact male with deformed teeth from an injury.



The FCHD recommends that any people who may have had contact with this cat between **January 22, 2024, and February 5, 2024**, consult their health care provider and notify the FCHD's Community Health Services Office at 301-600-3342. If any pets had contact with the cat, consult with your veterinarian and notify the FCHD's Environmental Health Office at 301-600-1717.

Rabies is a viral disease that mainly infects mammals and is spread through the saliva of the infected animal, usually by a bite. Symptoms of rabies in animals may include fear of water, excessive salivation, failure to eat or drink, limping, unusually friendly or aggressive behavior, and/or other atypical behaviors such as nocturnal animals emerging during the daytime. The disease is nearly always fatal to humans once infected if no prompt post-exposure treatment is given.

If you or your pets have contact with a stray or wild animal, report it to Animal Control at 301-600-1544.

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