



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Advises Caution Due to Stray Cat Testing Positive for Rabies

New Braunfels, Texas — The City of New Braunfels Animal Services Division has received a positive report of rabies from a stray cat for the first time since 2011. The cat was picked up from the 1600 block of Hwy 46 West in New Braunfels, TX. The cat was collected and sent for testing on February 6th and the positive results were received February 8th.

The City's Environmental Services and Animal Services Divisions have always taken proactive measure to protect the health and safety of the public by rabies testing for high risk rabies carriers (fox, skunk, bat, raccoon, coyote) as well as any domestic animals that may be displaying abnormal behavior and/or may have had known contact with a high risk rabies carrier. All suspected rabies cases are evaluated based on information gathered from the complainant as well as any known contact, or possible contact, by humans or domestic pets.

The rabies virus is released in the saliva of an infected animal. An animal usually contracts rabies from the bite of an infected animal. The virus may also enter the body if the mucous membranes (the wet parts of the eyes, nose, or mouth) or a scratch or break in the skin have contact with saliva containing the rabies virus.

“Rabies occurs throughout the year in Texas,” said Bryan Ruiz, Environmental Services Manager. “Contrary to popular belief, rabies occurs in all seasons and in all sections of the cities and counties. The best form of prevention for the spread of rabies is to have all dogs and cats, over four months of age, vaccinated for rabies by a veterinarian. In the event you come across a suspected rabid wild animal or stray cat or dog, stay away and do not attempt to make contact with that animal. Call Animal Services at 830-608-2183 or email them at AnimalServices@nbtexas.org.”

For additional information, contact Mr. Ruiz, at 830-221-4070, or email at bruiz@nbtexas.org.

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