



Rick Scott
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., FACP
State Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2011

TO: News Media

(Signature on Office Original)

From: Heidar Heshmati, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.
Director
Brevard County Health Department

Subject: **RABIES WARNING**

On Monday, October 17, 2011, the Brevard County Health Department received confirmation of a raccoon positive for rabies located at Hereford Road, Melbourne, Florida.

Rabies is fatal in humans if not prevented in time. We advise everyone in the area who has been exposed to any stray animals or even if their own pet has been exposed, to call Animal Services and Enforcement at (321) 633-2024. For medical recommendations and questions regarding rabies call Brevard County Health Department, at (321) 454-7111.

I am appealing to the general public to cooperate in the implementation and effectiveness of this warning by:

- Reporting any strange behavior of all animals observed.
- Avoiding direct contact with wild animals, such as raccoons, bats, etc.
- Having all cats and dogs immunized against rabies.
- Immediately reporting any animals running at large.
- Prompt and complete reporting of all animal bites sustained by any individual.

Only qualified personnel, such as health department officials and animal services enforcement officers are advised to handle these animals.

Please remember to keep your pet on a leash, keep animal rabies shot up-to-date, and report any sickness in animals.

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