

April 10, 2024

DOH-WALTON ISSUES RABIES ALERT

Contact:

Patti Roberts

850-892-8015

Patricia.Roberts@flhealth.gov



DeFuniak Springs, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Walton County (DOH-Walton) is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. This is in response to a confirmed case of rabies in a fox that was killed in the Douglass Cross Road area, in Walton County on April 6, 2024. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies may be currently present in the wild animal population.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals, especially bats, which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment. If you are exposed to rabies, receiving appropriate treatment after exposure will protect you from the risk of rabies.

This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in Walton County:

- **Northern boundary: Holmes County Line**
- **Eastern boundary: C B Whitehead Road**
- **Southern boundary: White Creek**
- **Western boundary: Days Branch**

Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property, so they do not come in contact with wild or stray animals. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Walton County Animal Control at 850-892-8111.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract them with open garbage cans or litter. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report the injury to DOH-Walton by calling 850-520-7215.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead contact a [licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#).
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact Walton County Animal Control at 850-892-8111.
- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Prevent wildlife, including [bats](#), from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For more information on rabies, please visit [FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies](https://www.floridahealth.gov/rabies) or contact DOH-Walton at 850-520-7215.

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