

Hyde County Health Department

1151 Main Street, P. O. Box 100
Swan Quarter, NC 27885
Phone 252-926-4200 Fax 252-926-3702

www.hydehealth.com

For Release: Immediate

June 7, 2011

Contact:

Wesley P. Smith, Health Director
(252) 926-4387

Confirmed Case of Rabies in Hyde County

SWAN QUARTER, NC- The Hyde County Health Department reports a confirmed case of rabies in Hyde County on Germantown Road in the Scranton community. On June 2nd, a feral cat attacked a resident of that community. The resident shot and killed the cat and called Hyde County Sheriff's Department, who contacted Hyde County's Animal Control Contract Officer to deliver the cat to the Hyde County Health Department. On June 3rd, the head of the cat was sent to the State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies testing. On June 6th, the State Lab informed the Health Director that the cat tested positive for rabies.

If you are bitten by a wild or stray animal, contact a physician immediately. Bites from wild terrestrial carnivores present a high risk of rabies exposure. Notify animal control immediately if you have any exposure to raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, bobcats or large rodents such as beavers, so that the animal can be collected for testing if possible. Animal control agencies are listed online at www.ncarca.com.

If there is a chance you may have been exposed to rabies, or if the animal is caught and it tests positive for rabies, you may need to get a series of shots to prevent rabies disease. You cannot wait to see if you get sick, because there is no known cure once the disease develops.

Human rabies vaccine is available for people who have been exposed to rabies.

Rabies is a fatal disease, but people can protect themselves and their families by following these common-sense guidelines. And if people do come into contact with a potentially rabid animal, it is important to know to see a doctor right away.

For more information on rabies, see the N.C. Division of Public Health's rabies website at www.rabies.ncdhhs.gov, or contact Hugh Watson, Environmental Health Specialist, at 252-926-4380.

###