

Harris County
HCPHES
Public Health & Environmental Services

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Bat Tests Positive for Rabies in Katy

Wednesday September 13th a bat was found under the bleacher during a football game between McMeans Junior High and Katy Junior High schools. The game was held at Katy Taylor High School. The person who found the bat indicated that 10 -15 children were in the area where the bat was found. The bat was retrieved at 5:30p.m. that evening, sent for testing and found to be positive for rabies.

Anyone who came into physical contact with the bat while attending these football games should come to at Katy Taylor High School, Saturday September 16th from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. to speak with staff from Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES).

In order to focus our attention on those who had physical contact with the bat, HCPHES asks that **only** those who attended the September 13th football games **and** came into contact with the bat come to Katy Taylor to speak with HCPHES.

Bats and skunks are considered at high risk for rabies in Harris County and should never be handled. HCPHES Veterinary Public Health urges the following precautions:

- Maintain current rabies vaccinations on all dogs and cats four months of age and older (for a definition of “currently vaccinated”, please visit www.countypets.com)

www.harriscountyhealth.com

- Confine all pets or keep them on a leash.
- All persons, especially children, are warned to avoid all sick or injured animals.
- All stray or wild animals should be avoided, particularly skunks and bats observed during the day.
- Report all animal bites or scratches that break the skin or any physical contact with bats (with or without a bite) to your area animal control agency.
- Report loose animals to the area animal control agency.

For educational programs on rabies or animal safety, or for more information, call HCPHES Veterinary Public Health at 281-999-3191 or visit our website at www.countypets.com.

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