

Harris County
HCPHES
Public Health & Environmental Services

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For Immediate Release

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Bat Tests Positive for Rabies in Northwest Harris County

A bat in west Harris County has tested positive for rabies according to Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES) Veterinary Public Health division. There were no known human or animal exposures to the bat. Animal Control Officers from HCPHES Veterinary Public Health will be in that neighborhood on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 advising residents of the situation and encouraging them to keep their pets currently vaccinated against rabies. They will also discuss animal safety with neighborhood children.

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)
- 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 to the area animal control agency.
- Report loose animals to the area animal control agency.

www.harriscountyhealth.com

HCPHES Veterinary Public Health does accept random wild animal samples for testing on a limited basis. However, not all requests can be accommodated.

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.