

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: September 6, 2018	Contact: Ryan Tekac
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Two Raccoons Identified As Positive for Rabies in Mahoning County

An Ohio Department of Health Laboratory report has confirmed that two raccoons have tested positive for the rabies. The raccoons were tested due to a reported exposure between the raccoons and domestic dogs located in Springfield and Green Townships.

The Mahoning County District Board of Health is reminding residents to protect themselves from the risk of rabies by following these precautions:

- **Vaccinate your pets.**
- **Maintain control of your pets to reduce their contact with wildlife.**
- **Spay or neuter to decrease the number of stray animals.**
- **Avoid contact with wildlife and stray animals.**
- **Wash any animal bite areas thoroughly and follow up with a physician.**
- **Report any bite incidents to your local health department.**

“Pet owners need to remember that in Mahoning County all dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations can be obtained from a local veterinarian. In addition, residents should refrain from feeding or playing with wildlife,” says Ryan Tekac, Director of Environmental Health for the Mahoning County District Board of Health. “Pets should be fed indoors and trash can lids secured to avoid attracting wildlife onto your property.”

Rabies is a deadly virus and a serious public health threat. Wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats can carry the virus. Rabies is most often transmitted through bites and scratches from unvaccinated pets, strays, and wildlife.

If you find a sick or dead raccoon, skunk, or fox that is not decayed, please contact your local health department:

- If found in the city of Youngstown, please contact the Youngstown City Health District at (330) 743-3333



- If found in all other Mahoning County communities, please contact the Mahoning County District Board of Health at (330) 270-2855 menu selection #2.

More information on rabies can be found on our website at

<http://www.mahoninghealth.org/health/protect-your-family-from-rabies-cdc-features/>.

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