

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 10, 2021

**Contact: DT Simmons**

(850) 653-2111

**Rabies Alert Issued in Franklin County**

**Franklin, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Health in Franklin County has issued a rabies alert for Franklin County in response to a raccoon that tested positive on June 10, 2021. The raccoon attacked two dogs causing the pets to sustain injuries in the process. Both pets were vaccinated and will be receiving booster vaccines accordingly. This is the third animal that has tested positive for rabies in and/or around Bluff Rd in Apalachicola. No individuals were harmed or in direct contact with the raccoon.

All residents and visitors of Franklin County should be aware that rabies is present in the wild animal population and domestic animals are at risk if not vaccinated. Pet owners are encouraged to get and maintain up to date rabies vaccines for their pets. The public is asked to maintain a heightened awareness that rabies is active in Franklin County. Alerts are designed to increase awareness to the public, but they should not give a false sense of security to areas that have not been named as under an alert. The recent rabies alert is for 60 days.

An animal with rabies could infect other wild animals or domestic animals that have not been vaccinated against rabies. All domestic animals should be vaccinated against rabies and all wildlife contact should be avoided, particularly raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats and coyotes. Rabies is a disease of the nervous system and is fatal to warm blooded animals and humans. The only treatment for human exposure to rabies is rabies specific immune globulin and rabies immunization. Appropriate treatment started soon after the exposure will protect an exposed person from the disease.

The following advice is issued:

- **Keep rabies vaccinations up to date for all pets.**
- If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact County Animal Services at 850-670-4733.
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood.
- **Do not** handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals by leaving pet food outside, or garbage cans open.
- **Never** adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.
- Teach children **never** to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people and pets.
- Persons who have been bitten or scratched by wild or domestic animals should seek medical attention and report the injury to the Florida Department of Health Franklin County at 850-653-2111.

**Florida Department of Health in Franklin County**

139-12<sup>th</sup> Street • Apalachicola, Florida 32320  
PHONE: 850-653-2111 • FAX 850-653-1727

**FloridaHealth.gov**



**Accredited Health Department**  
Public Health Accreditation Board

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health in Franklin County, please visit <http://franklin.floridahealth.gov/index.html>.