



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bat Found In Powell Home Tests Positive For Rabies

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Powell, OH: A bat found inside a Powell home has tested positive for rabies.

According to a press release issued by the Delaware General Health District, the Ohio Department of Health laboratory notified the Health District about the rabid bat today. The bat was collected by an animal control firm inside a Powell home on Beech Trail Court in the Olentangy Ridge subdivision on Aug. 9. No people were exposed to the bat, and it is believed that no pets were exposed. However, the homeowner has been asked to quarantine the family pets – that is, keep them away from those they might bite – for 10 days from the date the bat was discovered.

Area residents are urged to make sure that their pets are vaccinated against rabies, and to be on the lookout for dead bats and wild animals displaying unusual behavior, the Health District release said.

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks mammals' nervous systems. It is fatal unless treated. So far this year, four rabid bats have been found in Delaware County, one more than last year's total. The other rabid bats were found in Scioto Township in July and August and in the village of Ashley in May.

The press release said the Ohio Department of Health is asking local health departments to collect dead bats for rabies testing in situations where the bat might have exposed a human or another animal to rabies. Anyone who finds a recently deceased bat that might have exposed a person or a pet should call the Delaware General Health District at 740-368-1700. A sanitarian will determine whether the bat needs to be collected for rabies testing and will provide information on safely handling the carcass.

After hours, residents can call the Health District Emergency Line, 740-368-0310.

Residents are further urged to follow these precautions against rabies:

Make sure dogs, cats – particularly barn cats – and ferrets have up-to-date rabies vaccinations.

Supervise dogs and cats when they are outside to avoid encounters with wild animals that might be carrying rabies.

Make sure window screens are always in place and keep doors closed to prevent bats from entering your home.

Teach children to never touch or play with any unfamiliar, wild, or sick animals.

Use soap and water to clean any wounds caused by encounters with bats, and seek medical attention immediately.

Prevent the spread of rabies by stray or feral animals by spaying and neutering pets.

The Ohio Department of Health reported that a total of 86 rabid bats were found in Ohio last year. Rabid bats were found in Franklin, Union, and Marion counties as well as Delaware County.

No human rabies infections have been confirmed here for many years. Some local residents have received precautionary rabies vaccine treatments, however, because of possible exposure to rabid bats.

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