



# Forsyth County Environmental Health

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PH: 770-781-6909 · [www.forsythhd.com](http://www.forsythhd.com)

July 19, 2023

## Attention Residents

**POSITIVE RABIES ALERT** in the Grand Cascades Subdivision on James Burgess Rd.

This is to advise that a dog was recently exposed to a raccoon in the Grand Cascades Subdivision in Suwanee, Georgia. The raccoon was shipped to the Georgia Public Health Lab and tested positive for rabies on July 18, 2023. The rabies virus does exist in Forsyth County wildlife and can be transmitted to domestic animals and humans. Rabies in humans is essentially **100% fatal** if not treated within a certain time prior to the onset of symptoms. **If you know of any person or domestic animal that had any contact with a raccoon or had the potential to contact it, please call Forsyth County Environmental Health at (770)-781-6909.**

Please check any of your animals that may have been outside recently. If you have any questions, call the Environmental Health Department at 770-781-6909 or contact your local Veterinarian.

The following are symptoms of rabies that you should watch for in any domestic animal:

- Animal stops eating or drinking
- Animal becomes unusually vicious towards owners or others
- Animal walks with a sluggish gait or even sideways
- Animal constantly slobbers from the mouth
- Animal displays strange or unexplainable behavior

Encounters between wild animals and domestic pets, including some that involve people, sometimes occur in our area. Incidents of exposure are common but can be prevented if residents take precautions to protect themselves and their pets.

Maintaining current rabies vaccinations for your pets and keeping them away from wild animals is the best way to protect them. To protect yourself and your family, do not attempt to capture or feed feral/stray cats or other wild animals.

**People should always avoid contact with unfamiliar dogs, cats, and wild animals. This includes feeding or attempting to help an animal that appears injured. If you feed your pets outside, pick up any uneaten food so wild animals, including feral cats, will not be attracted to your property. Feral cats are born in the wild and should be treated as wild animals.**

There is no better time than now to ensure that all your pets are currently vaccinated. Rabies prevention information can be found at <https://phdistrict2.org/>. For more information about rabies, ask your veterinarian, local health department or go to <http://dph.georgia.gov/rabies>.