



Habersham County Health Department Environmental Health Section

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Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White Counties

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Recently, a black cat in the area of Sunshine Circle and Ivie Street in Cornelia tested positive for rabies. The rabies virus does exist in Habersham 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 this cat or had the potential to contact it, please immediately call the Habersham County Animal Control Office at 706-839-0496 or Habersham County Environmental Health at 706-839-0277.

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

If you suspect that YOU or YOUR ANIMAL(S) have been in contact with this or any rabid animal, or you notice your pet or domestic animal displaying any symptom of rabies, avoid contact with the animal and confine it, then call the Habersham County Animal Control Office at 706-839-0496 or Habersham County Environmental Health at 706-839-0277. If you have had contact with any rabid or suspected rabid animal, please contact your physician immediately to discuss whether treatment is necessary.