



IN THE NEWS
LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2 Murray Hill Drive - Mount Morris, New York - 14510
Jennifer Rodriguez, M.S. - Public Health Director



For Immediate Release
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Rabies Positive Cat in the Town of Groveland, Livingston County

MOUNT MORRIS, N.Y., November 16, 2021 – According to Livingston County Public Health Director, Jennifer Rodriguez, the New York State Health Department laboratory has confirmed that a cat in Groveland Station in the Town of Groveland tested positive for rabies on November 16, 2021. The cat, a feral adult, was confirmed to have bitten two people prior to testing. These individuals will receive rabies post exposure treatment to prevent rabies virus infection. The cat in this case is known to have delivered a litter of kittens recently. The kittens were not seen after November 7. It is believed that the kittens did not survive, but if anyone is aware of any extremely young, unweaned kittens being picked up in the Groveland Station area after November 7 please contact the Livingston County Department of Health at 585-243-7280.

Rabies is a deadly virus that attacks the central nervous system in mammals. It is most often found in raccoons, skunks, and bats in Livingston County. All mammals, including unvaccinated dogs, cats, and farm animals are at risk for getting rabies. There is no way to tell if an animal is rabid just by looking at it. Wild or feral animals should always be avoided. Signs of rabies in wildlife can include:

- inability to walk
- appearance of “drunkenness”
- unwillingness to drink water or eat
- drooling
- aggressive behavior
- any significant change in temperament

All potential rabies exposures should be reported to the Livingston County Department of Health.

Below are important steps you can follow to prevent rabies.

- Stay away from unfamiliar animals, either wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
- Thoroughly wash any wound from an animal with soap and water and seek immediate medical attention.
- Avoid wild and feral animals, especially if the animal is showing any sign of rabies.
- Be a responsible pet owner by keeping your pet’s vaccinations current. Getting your pet vaccinated can help stop the spread of rabies from wild animals to humans.

New York State Law requires that all dogs, cats and ferrets have current rabies vaccinations beginning at 4 months of age. An unvaccinated pet that comes into contact with a rabid animal must be kept in strict confinement for six months or be euthanized. Free rabies clinics are offered for dogs, cats, and ferrets every year in Livingston County.

It is important to be aware of the facts and use caution to protect both your family and your pets. If you have any questions or would like further information on rabies or rabies vaccination clinics, please contact the Livingston County Department of Health at 585-243-7280 or visit www.livingstoncounty.us/eh.

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