



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City Urges Caution Due to Cat Testing Positive for Rabies

New Braunfels, Texas — The City of New Braunfels Animal Services Division has received a positive report of rabies from a stray cat for the second time this year. The cat was picked up on April 21st from the 1600 block of Independence Drive in New Braunfels and sent for testing. The positive rabies results were received April 27th. Animal Control Officers are conducting onsite visits with businesses adjacent to the area to inform them of the positive case and to confirm that there were no exposures.

The Environmental Services and Animal Services Divisions have always taken proactive measure to protect the health and safety of the public by rabies testing of high risk rabies carriers (fox, skunk, bat, raccoon, coyote) as well as any domestic animals that may be displaying abnormal behavior and/or may have had known contact with a high risk carrier. All suspected rabies cases are evaluated based on information gathered from the complainant as well as any known contact - or possible contact - by humans or domestic pets.

“The rabies virus is released in the saliva of an infected animal and an animal usually contracts rabies from the bite of an infected animal,” said Environmental Services Manager Bryan Ruiz. “However, the virus may also enter the body if the mucous membranes (the wet parts of the eyes, nose, or mouth) or a scratch or break in the skin have contact with saliva containing the rabies virus.

“Rabies occurs throughout the year in Texas and in all sections of the city and county,” Ruiz noted. “The best form of prevention for the spread of rabies is to have all dogs and cats, over four months of age, vaccinated for rabies by a veterinarian. In the event you come across a suspected rabid wild animal or stray cat or dog, stay away and do not attempt to make contact with the animal. Call Animal Services at 830-608-2183 or email them at AnimalServices@nbtexas.org.”

For additional information, contact Mr. Ruiz at 830-221-4070, or at bruiz@nbtexas.org.

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