



Jeb Bush  
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.  
Secretary

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: TIM O'CONNOR  
561-355-3576 FAX:355-3035 Or  
Karen Buchan: 233-1280

### **RACCOON-- 9<sup>TH</sup> RABID ANIMAL THIS YEAR**

**Tequesta, FL**—State of Florida, Department of Health Laboratory in Lantana confirmed today that a raccoon captured west of Old Dixie Highway on County Line Road in Tequesta has tested positive for rabies. The rabid animal entered the home and attacked two cats and a dog, however their vaccines are up to date, so they will be placed in home quarantine for 10 days. This brings the 2005 rabid animal total to nine, eight raccoons and a domestic cat.

This year the other rabid animals have been found in Lake Worth, Hypoluxo, Boynton Beach, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens and Boca Raton.

“All should be aware that rabies does exist in our county and that domestic animals should be vaccinated against this disease,” said Health Department Director Dr. Jean Malecki.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can be prevented but not cured. The virus attacks the nerves and brain tissue of warm-blooded animals including people.

Persons that have been in contact with or bitten by a potentially rabid animal should report to their nearest medical provider, hospital or Palm Beach County Health Department at 561-840-4500.

Domestic animals, dogs and cats, over four months of age are required to be vaccinated against rabies and wear a current rabies license tag. Rabies shots are available through a veterinarian or by calling Animal Care and Control at 561 233-1272.

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Post Office Box 29 / 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33402  
Jean M. Malecki, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director  
[www.pbchd.com](http://www.pbchd.com)