



# Halifax County Health Department

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## **For Immediate Release:**

November 16, 2011  
3:00 pm

### **Halifax County Health Department Issues Rabies Notice**

Halifax, NC – Local health officials have issued a rabies notice for residents and visitors in the vicinity of Pikes Store (intersection of Justice Branch Road and Heathsville Road) in Halifax County. A case of rabies was confirmed today, November 16, 2011, in a cat.

Animal Control officers are concerned about possible exposure of people and unvaccinated animals particularly pets, in the area. Anyone who observes an animal acting in an unusual manner is urged to call Mr. Jeff Dillard at Halifax County Animal Control at 252-583-6651.

**Bite exposures:** Any penetration of the skin by teeth constitutes a bite exposure. All bites, regardless of body site or evidence of gross trauma, represent a potential risk.

**Nonbite exposures:** If you have touched or been scratched by a rabid animal there is a potential of exposure.

Ms. Harris Ellis, Director of Halifax County Health Department urges the following:

- Whenever a person is bitten or scratched by an unknown animal and skin is broken they should thoroughly clean the wound with soap and water and contact their physicians or Halifax County Health Department immediately.
- Residents should not approach wildlife, especially during the daytime.
- Residents should ensure their pets have a current rabies vaccination.
- If a pet is fed outside, do not leave food out overnight.
- Do not leave pets outdoors unattended.
- If your pet comes in contact with an animal that might be rabid, contact your veterinarian and the Halifax County Health Department immediately.

For more information on rabies, please contact Mr. Jeff Dillard at Halifax County Animal Control at 252-583-6651.