

Raccoon Tests Positive for Rabies

A raccoon, found at Haverford College tested positive for rabies and a second raccoon suspected of rabies was involved in an attack of a dog and owner near Ellis Road and Castle Rock Dr.

To reduce the risk of rabies in animals and humans, residents should use the following precautions:

- **Make sure that dogs, cats and pet ferrets have current rabies vaccines. The rabies vaccination is the most effective way of protecting pets and humans from rabies.**
- Keep your pets on a leash and don't allow them to run at large.
- Do not feed pets outdoors.
- Never try to feed a wild animal.
- Do not approach or touch unfamiliar animals.
- Avoid any animal with symptoms of rabies.
- Block any openings into the home that an animal may get through.
- Keep tamper-proof lids on outside garbage cans so animals are not attracted to your property.
- Teach children basic rules about protecting themselves from strange and unfamiliar animals.

If you see an animal that you suspect may be rabid, please call 911.

Signs of rabies in animals:

In the "furious" form, wild animals may appear to be agitated, bite or snap at imaginary and real objects, and drool excessively. In the "dumb" form, wild animals may appear tame and seem to have no fear of humans.

There are other signs, such as the animal appearing drunk or wobbly, circling, seeming partially paralyzed, acting disorientated, or mutilating itself. However, most of these signs can also be indicative of other diseases like distemper or lead poisoning. If a typically nocturnal animal, such as a [raccoon](#) or [skunk](#), is active during the day *and* exhibiting abnormal behavior, please call 911.

For more information about rabies, please go to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture website at <http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Protect/AHDServices/Pages/Rabies.aspx>