

March 4, 2017

## ***RABIES ALERT BOUNDARIES EXTENDED***

**Contact:**

Communications Office  
786-336-1276



**Miami, Fla.** – Today, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (DOH-Miami-Dade) has received confirmation of a second raccoon, which was killed by a car in the Kendall area, that has tested positive for rabies.

In response, DOH-Miami-Dade is extending the rabies alert boundaries in Miami-Dade County as follows:

- SW 72nd Street (Sunset Drive) to the North,
- SW 128th Street to the South,
- SW 87th Avenue to the East,
- Florida Turnpike to the West.

This is the second confirmed rabid animal this year in the county and second rabid raccoon identified in Miami-Dade since 2001. DOH-Miami-Dade is working with Miami-Dade Animal Services to identify any individuals who might have been exposed to the animal. The rabies alert is for 60 days.

An animal with rabies could infect other wild or domestic animals that have not been vaccinated against rabies. All domestic animals should be vaccinated against rabies and all wildlife contact should be avoided, particularly raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats and coyotes. Rabies is a disease of the nervous system and is fatal to warm-blooded animals and humans. The only treatment for human exposure to rabies is rabies-specific immune globulin and rabies immunization. Appropriate treatment started soon after the exposure, will protect an exposed person from the disease.

Residents and visitors are advised to take the following precautions:

- Keep rabies vaccinations up to date for all pets.
- Keep your pets under direct supervision so they do not come in contact with wild animals. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Miami-Dade County Animal Services at 3-1-1.
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood.
- **Do not** handle, feed, or unintentionally attract wild animals with open garbage cans or litter.
- Avoid contact with stray and feral animals.
- **Never** adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.
- Teach children **never** to handle unfamiliar animals, wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.

- Prevent bats from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people and pets.
- Persons who have been bitten or scratched by wild or domestic animals should seek medical attention and report the injury to the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County at 305-324-2400.

For further information on rabies, go to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html> or call the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County at 305-324-2400, or Miami-Dade County Animal Services at 3-1-1.

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

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