



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For Immediate Release

July 15, 2010

News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

Agency Website: www.willcountyhealth.org

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NAPERVILLE BAT HAD RABIES

JOLIET – A bat trapped on the porch of a Naperville residence has become Will County's third confirmed case of wildlife rabies for 2010.

The bat was found on the front porch of a home on Malvina Court July 10. An occupant of the home used a plastic bucket to capture the animal and Will County Animal Control was immediately notified. The Will County Health Department subsequently transported the bat to the Illinois Department of Public Health for laboratory analysis, and the animal was confirmed rabid July 13.

Three people and two dogs live on the Malvina Court property. No human exposures were identified and both of the pets carry current rabies vaccination tags.

Will County's first wildlife rabies case of 2010 was a bat found in Joliet April 15. A bat trapped in Homer Glen was confirmed rabid June 30.

Rabies is a fatal viral disease transmitted to humans from the saliva of an infected warm-blooded animal. In Illinois, bats have accounted for nearly 600 cases of wildlife rabies since 2000, including at least 33 confirmations from 11 counties during 2010.

"July, August and September are the prime months for bat rabies activity," according to Will County Animal Control administrator Lee Schild D.V.M. "We are fortunate that there have been no human exposures from the three Will County bats confirmed rabid so far this year. In all three of the local cases, the home owners involved were quick to notify Will County Animal Control about the bats, and we were able to collect the animals before human exposures could occur. It's critical that residents notify Animal Control immediately when bats are found."

Will County reported six cases of bat rabies during 2009. A Naperville teen had to undergo rabies treatment after being exposed to a bat confirmed rabid late last August. A total of 25 Will County residents received post-exposure rabies treatment during 2009.

Will County Animal Control is available 24 hours daily at 815-462-5633.



Public Health
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