



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Will County Health Department
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July 28, 2010

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANOTHER RABID BAT FOUND IN NAPERVILLE

JOLIET – A live bat trapped near a Naperville garage is Will County's fourth confirmed case of wildlife rabies for 2010.

The bat was found outside a home on Grommon Road July 26. Will County Animal Control transported the bat via courier to the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory complex July 27, and rabies was confirmed the same day.

Two adults and four children live on the Grommon property, but no human exposures were identified. No pets live on the property.

It marks the second bat rabies confirmation in Naperville this year. A bat found on the front porch of a home on Malvina Court was confirmed rabid July 13. Three people and two dogs live at the Malvina Court address, but no exposures were identified.

The county's first rabies case of 2010 was a bat found in Joliet April 15. A bat trapped in Homer Glen tested positive June 30.

Rabies is a fatal viral disease transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected warm-blooded animal. Skunks and raccoons are prime rabies carriers in many states, but bats constitute the principal disease risk in Illinois.

"Bats have accounted for the last 49 confirmed cases of wildlife rabies in Will County," according to Will County Animal Control Administrator Lee Schild D.V.M. "Bats are perfectly fine in the wild, but they pose a rabies risk to humans and people need to avoid potential exposures. If you do come in contact with a bat, report the exposure to the most appropriate animal control authority as soon as possible."



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Will County is one of at least 11 Illinois jurisdictions to report rabies activity this year. Cook, Kane, McHenry, and Will counties have accounted for nearly 74 percent of the state rabies confirmations reported to date.

For more information about rabies, visit www.idph.state.il.us.