



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH BRUNSWICK

Municipal Building Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY NOTICE OF RABID RACCOON- 07/24/2024

On July 20, 2024 a resident's dogs had an altercation with a raccoon in the vicinity of Deans Lane. The raccoon was retrieved by Animal Control and transported to the New Jersey State Department of Health Laboratory. The State Laboratory reported on 07/24/2024 that the raccoon tested positive for rabies. This is the First (1st) rabid animal reported within South Brunswick during 2024 and the third rabid animal in the Middlesex County.

South Brunswick Township continues to monitor rabies cases within the municipality. Residents should report wild animals showing signs of unusual behavior to the Police Department. Additionally, it is recommended that Township residents should avoid contact with wild animals and **immediately report any bites from wild or domestic animals to the South Brunswick Health Department or Police Dispatch and consult a physician as soon as possible. Most importantly be sure that all family pets are up to date on their rabies vaccinations and licenses.**

Rabies Prevention Guidelines: The Township of South Brunswick is advising residents to follow these guidelines in order to prevent rabies from being transmitted to themselves or their pets:

1. Immediately report a bite from a wild or domestic animal to the Health Department.
Wash animal bite wounds thoroughly with soap and water as soon as possible after the bite. Contamination of open cuts or scratches with saliva of potentially rabid animals should also be washed off immediately. Consult a physician as soon as possible.
2. Immediately report any wild animal showing signs of unusual behavior such as:
 - Moves slowly
 - Appear sick
 - Have an increase of saliva
 - Acting aggressive
 - Have paralysis
 - May act as if it is tame
 - Have problems swallowing
 - Have increased drooling
 - Have difficulty moving
 - Bite at everything if excited

Residents should avoid any contact with the animal and call the Animal Control Office or Police Dispatch.

3. **Be sure that all family pets are up to date on their rabies vaccination.** If you are unsure, please call your veterinarian. Contact the Township or check the Twp. website for free rabies vaccination clinic availability.
4. Animal proof your home and yard. Make sure all garbage containers have tight fitting lids, do not leave pet food or water outside, do not allow rainwater to collect in outdoor containers or equipment and keep yard free of garbage and debris.
5. Do not feed or handle wild animals.
6. Avoid contact with stray animals, or pets other than your own.
7. Screen off vents to attics and other areas that could provide shelter for bats.
8. Try to prevent your pets from coming into contact with wild animals. **Should your pet come in contact with a wild animal, use precautions and wear gloves when handling your pet, and immediately call the Animal Control Officer or Police Dispatch.**

For reporting an incident with an animal or for additional information contact:

South Brunswick Animal Control at 732-329-4000 Ext. 7265
South Brunswick Health Department at 732-329-4000 Ext 7237 or 7238
South Brunswick Police Department at 732-329-4646