## **DOH-Citrus Issues Rabies Alert**

## Contact:

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**Citrus County, Fla.**—The Florida Department of Health in Citrus County (DOH-Citrus) is issuing a rabies alert in Citrus County in response to a confirmed case of rabies in a cat that was captured in the area of Berkshire Ave. in Inverness, Citrus County, on June 23, 2025. DOH-Citrus is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies is currently present in the wild animal population.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals (e.g., raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats, coyotes), which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment. If you are exposed to rabies, receiving appropriate treatment after exposure will protect you from the risk of rabies.

This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in Citrus County:

Northern boundary: Trail 18

Southern boundary: E Needham Court

Eastern boundary: Highway 581Western boundary: S Trail 9

## Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Citrus County Sheriff's Office Animal Control at 352-249-2790.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract
  them with outdoor pet food, open garbage cans, or other sources of food. If you have
  been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report
  the injury to DOH-Citrus by calling 352-726-1121.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead, contact a <u>licensed</u> wildlife rehabilitator.
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact Citrus County Sheriff's Office Animal Control at 352-249-2790.
- Prevent wildlife, including <u>bats</u>, from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For more information on rabies, please visit <u>FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies</u> or contact DOH-Citrus at 352-527-0068.

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The Department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

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