



# Washington County Health Department

1302 Pennsylvania Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21742

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## For Immediate Release:

May 2, 2020

Re: Confirmed Rabies in Kitten in Big Pool

The Washington County Health Department has confirmed rabies in a kitten attacked by raccoons located on Big Pool Rd between Fort Frederick Rd and Gehr Rd in Big Pool, MD.

There are known human exposures in the vicinity reported at this time. Exposure is defined as a bite, scratch, or contact of saliva from an infected animal with a mucous membrane, such as the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Health Department personnel have contacted individuals associated with the rabid kitten and want to advise residents in the vicinity of the situation and urge caution when dealing with raccoons and other unknown animals. Please contact the Health Department if you live in the vicinity of Big Pool Road, Big Pool, MD and you have, or know of anyone who might have had, any possible human or animal exposure at the numbers listed below.

Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the nervous system; it is predominantly seen in raccoons, bats, and skunks, as well as in dogs and cats (domestic animals).

Washington County residents are reminded that rabies has been well established in Maryland since 1983, and that all wild or unknown animals should be avoided whenever possible since the possibility of exposure to rabies can occur anywhere and anytime.

Pet owners should remember that the best way to protect themselves, their families, and their pets is to keep their pets and any other animals with which they come into routine contact up-to-date on rabies vaccination.

**Washington County Humane Society / Animal Control: 301-733-2060**

**Washington County Health Department – Nursing: 240-313-3290**

**Washington County Health Department – Environmental Health: 240-313-3400**

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