



County of Prince Edward, Virginia News Release – January 6, 2011

Contact: Ray Foster, County Animal Control Officer – 434-547-2054
Ed Dunn, P.E. County Health Department – 434-392-8187, ext 138

RABIES CONFIRMED IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY *Rabid Skunk in Darlington Heights Area*

January 6, 2011 – A skunk has tested positive for rabies in the Darlington Heights area of Prince Edward County. Prince Edward County Animal Control and the Prince Edward County Health Department confirmed the case of rabies on Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

Rabies is a fatal, but preventable, disease that is carried by mammals and has been in the wild animal population of the County for many years. There are three important rabies prevention guidelines recommended by County Animal Control:

1. Vaccinate your pets.
2. Immediately, report all exposures to wild animals (bites and scratches) to your doctor and the local health department.
3. Enjoy wildlife from a distance - don't feed or encourage wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, or foxes to visit your premises.

“Regrettably, the facts of this particular case are a sobering reminder of how important it is to have your animals vaccinated,” said Ray Foster, Chief Animal Control Officer for Prince Edward County. “I urge every citizen of Prince Edward County to please have your companion animals vaccinated. It is the law, but it will also save their life, if they come into contact with a rabid animal.”

-Continues on Page Two-

Prince Edward County Animal Control has organized low-cost rabies vaccination clinics on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at the following locations:

<u>Location - Fire Department</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Veterinarian</u>
Rice	10:00 a.m.	Dr. French/Dr. Gates
Prospect	12:00 noon	Dr. French/Dr. Gates
Darlington Heights	2:00 p.m.	Dr. French/Dr. Gates
Meherrin	4:00 p.m.	Dr. Swan

The cost for rabies shots at these clinics is \$8.00 per dog or cat. Rabies certificates will be issued. All dogs should be on leashes and all cats should be in carriers.

Additionally, Prince Edward County Treasurer, Mable Shanaberger, will be at each clinic to make 2011 County Dog Tags available for purchase. The cost of dog tags is: neutered/spade dog = \$5.00, un-neutered/unspade = \$10.00. Cash or checks only will be accepted at the clinics. No credit cards.

For more information about the rabies clinics or dog tags, please contact the Prince Edward County Administrator's Office at 434-392-8837. For more information about rabies, please contact the Prince Edward County Health Department at 434-392-8187.

###