

Community Response Partner Network

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

January 29, 2025



SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

PUPPY TESTED POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN OLNEY NEIGHBORHOOD

ACCT Philly and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health recently identified a rabid stray puppy. The dog was picked up by ACCT Philly around 11:00PM on West Wellens Street near North American Street on Saturday, January 18, 2025.

Rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system and is fatal for both humans and animals if medical care is not given in a timely manner following an exposure. Rabies is transmitted by bites and scratches as well as saliva from a rabid animal coming into contact with open wounds, the mouth, eyes, or nose.

It is extremely important that anyone who had contact with this puppy or knows any information on where the puppy came from contact the Health Department at (215) 685-6742 during business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:30AM - 5:00PM).

If any residents or their pets were bitten, scratched, or licked by this puppy or another wild or stray animal in this area in January, please call the Health Department at 215-685-6742.

The Health Department will assist with identifying additional exposed persons and advise those exposed to receive treatment to prevent rabies, since this infection is fatal. Treatment includes receiving an antibody product against rabies along with 4 doses of rabies vaccine given over a 2-week period.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: <https://bit.ly/42xDqFP>

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF EXPOSURE TO RABIES

- Make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies at 12 weeks of age and yearly following that. Low-cost veterinary providers are available [here](#).
- If you purchase a dog or cat from someone, make sure they have proof of a rabies vaccine, specifically a rabies vaccine certificate signed by a veterinarian.
- If you cannot care for your pet, do not dump them outside. It is illegal and inhumane and can also place the community at risk as this puppy did.
 - ACCT Philly can provide [resources](#) to help you keep your pet.
- Do not feed wild animals. Feed your pet indoors and do not let them outside without supervision.
- Make sure children know to avoid trying to touch wild animals or pets they don't know.
- If you see a sick or injured animal, please contact ACCT Philly. Officers will pick up the animal and send them for testing if appropriate.
- Report all bites, scratches, and other exposures to animals for any individual in Philadelphia to the Health Department by calling 215-685-6742 or by faxing a completed [Animal Exposure Reporting Form](#) to 215-238-6947.

HOW TO STAY CONNECTED

- Sign up at bit.ly/phlcommunityresponse to get essential public health information, then share with your family, friends, and community.
- Questions or suggestions? Email us at publichealthpreparedness@phila.gov or call us at 215-429-3016 with any questions or suggestions.