

April 1, 2024

DOH-ALACHUA ISSUES RABIES ALERT



Contact:

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Gainesville, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Alachua County (DOH-Alachua) is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. This is in response to a confirmed case of rabies in three raccoons that were captured in the SW area of the City of Alachua and SR Road 45 (US Highway 27) in Alachua County last week. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies may be 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.

The center of the rabies alert is the intersection of NW 94 Ave. and NW 2226 St. / NW 234 St. This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in Alachua County:

- South of NW 122 Avenue, Alachua
- East of NW SR 45 (HWY 27), Alachua
- North of NW 78 Avenue, Alachua
- West of NW 202 Street, Alachua

Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- 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 Alachua County Animal Services at 352-264-6880.
- 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-Alachua by calling 352-334-7930.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead contact a [licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#).
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact Alachua County Animal Services at 352-264-6880.
- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Prevent wildlife, including [bats](#), 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 [FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies](https://www.floridahealth.gov/Rabies) or contact DOH-Alachua at 352-334-7930.

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