

May 14, 2026

DOH-Marion Issues Rabies Alert



Contact:

Nina Mattei, MS, Public Information Officer
MarionCHDInfo@FLHealth.gov
352-644-2664 Desk
352-843-9471 Mobile

Marion County, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Marion County (DOH-Marion) is issuing a rabies alert in Marion County in response to a confirmed case of rabies in a raccoon that was killed in the Ocala area off SE 8th St. in Marion County on May 11, 2026. DOH-Marion 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 Marion County:

- **Northern boundary:** NE 8th St.
- **Southern boundary:** SE 22nd Road
- **Eastern boundary:** SE 22nd Loop
- **Western boundary:** SW 4th Ave.

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 [Marion County Animal Services](#) at 352-671-8727.
- 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-Marion by calling 352-629-0137.
- 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 [Marion County Animal Services](#) at 352-671-8727.
- 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-Marion at 352-629-0137.

###

About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

Follow us on X at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](#).