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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Positive Case of Rabies Confirmed in Rahway, NJ

**RAHWAY, NJ** – The New Jersey State Department of Health has confirmed a positive case of Rabies in a feral cat found at Esterbrook Avenue, Rahway, NJ. Rabies is a fatal disease of warm-blooded mammals caused by a virus, most frequently spread through a bite from an infected animal.

The infected animal was found on September 2, 2024, and has tested positive for rabies at the NJ Department of Health Laboratory. In official guidance, the NJ Department of Health urges all residents to be vigilant and to avoid contact with wild animals, particularly feral (stray) cats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, woodchucks, and bats.

"Rabies is a dangerous virus that affects the central nervous system and is almost always fatal once symptoms appear," said Rahway Health Official De Zheng. "It is essential that residents take steps to protect themselves and their pets."

To prevent the spread of rabies, residents are encouraged to:

- **Vaccinate Pets:** Ensure your pets' rabies vaccinations are current.
- **Avoid Contact with Wild Animals:** Do not feed or handle wild animals, even if they appear friendly.
- **Secure Your Home:** Seal any openings that may allow wild animals to enter your home.
- **Report Animal Bites:** If you or a pet has been bitten or scratched by a wild animal, report it to the Rahway Health Department immediately at 732-827-2085 or Associated Humane Society Animal Control at 973-824-7080.

Anyone who may have come into contact with the infected animal or has been bitten should immediately contact the Rahway Department of Health at 732-827-2085 and seek medical evaluation and treatment.

Residents are encouraged to take these precautions seriously to protect the community from the risks associated with rabies. By following these guidelines, residents can help prevent the spread of this deadly virus.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/rabies.shtml> or <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>.

**NOTICE:** This notice is released to align with New Jersey Department of Health guidance to promptly identify cases of rabies and prevent further transmission, provide residents with appropriate preventive health information, to educate the healthcare community about the risk of rabies in various species, and to ensure appropriate post-exposure treatment of exposed individuals.

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