



CHARLES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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For Immediate Release

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Charles County Department of Health Positive Rabies Case in Waldorf, MD

The Charles County Department of Health is alerting all citizens and visitors to a rabies case identified in Waldorf, MD. One cat tested **POSITIVE** for rabies on May 14, 2026, in the vicinity of Dartmouth Rd, Waldorf, MD. If you or your pet recently had contact with an unknown cat from this location, please call the Charles County Department at 301-609-6768.

We urge everyone to avoid contact with unknown animals and wildlife. Rabies is a disease of animals and people. The virus is spread through the saliva of a rabid animal. Usually this occurs when a rabid animal bites or scratches a person or animal. However, secondary exposure can occur from saliva on the coat or fur of an animal that was exposed to a rabid animal. The virus can get into the body through open cuts or wounds, or through the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Domesticated animals like dogs, cats, and ferrets can get rabies from wild animals such as raccoons, foxes, skunks, bats, etc. Getting your pets vaccinated against rabies will prevent them from getting infected with rabies. Livestock may also be infected with rabies. You should contact your veterinarian for rabies information and vaccination for livestock. It is important to teach your children to stay away from wild and unknown animals.

A current rabies vaccination for your pet is vital. Please contact your local vet for an updated vaccine for your pets. You may also contact Charles County Animal Care Center 301-932-1713 for any updated clinics that are scheduled throughout the Tri-County area. Petco, Banfield and Tractor Supply are additional options that provide clinics. **Our next FREE rabies vaccination clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets will be held on May 17, 2026 at 10425 Audie Ln, La Plata, MD.**

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