
CLEVELAND COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

March 14, 2008

FROM: DENESE R. STALLINGS, HEALTH DIRECTOR

CLEVELAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

On March 12, 2008, Cleveland County Animal Control received a complaint at

1403 Buckford Rd, Shelby, North Carolina, in reference to a **raccoon** on the property acting abnormal. The Cleveland County Health Department was notified on March 14, 2008, that the **raccoon** tested positive for rabies. This makes our third (**3rd**) case in 2008.

Residents need to make sure their animals are under their direct control. Animals that are allowed to run loose are at risk of coming into contact with a rabid animal. If your animals are exposed to a rabid animal and not vaccinated, then your animals will have to be euthanized or quarantined for six months.

During the next six months, anyone living in the vicinity of 1403 Buckford Rd, Shelby, North Carolina should observe his or her animals for any unusual behavior. In addition, residents need to make sure that all cats, dogs and ferrets have a current rabies vaccination. North Carolina State Law requires all cats and dogs to have rabies shots at four months of age, and require a booster every three years.

Anyone that sees an animal demonstrating unusual behavior needs to call the Cleveland County Animal Control Department at 481-9884.