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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RABIES—JUNE ENDS WITH THREE MORE RABID ANIMALS

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—The month of June concluded with three more raccoons testing positive for rabies, two in Tequesta/Jupiter and one in Boca Raton, bringing this years total to 18.

Animal Care and control is distributing informational flyers to areas east of I-95 near SW 2nd Street, SW 9th Ave. and West Palmetto Park Roads in Boca Raton and in Tequesta near River Drive and in Jupiter near River Terrace both north of Indiantown Road.

Palm Beach County Health Department Director, Dr. Jean Malecki, is strongly advising individuals to avoid contact with any wild or stray animals and to report any suspicious animal activity to Animal Care and Control at 561-233-1200. These latest cases all involved dogs that came in contact with the rabid raccoons. Two of the dogs were current on their rabies vaccinations and have been placed in house quarantine for observation over the next 45 days. The third dog is still pending proof of current vaccinations.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can be prevented but not cured. The virus attacks the nerves and brain tissue of warm-blooded animals including people.

2002 had a record 27 cases. The 18 so far this year have been in Boca Raton, Jupiter Farms, Loxahatchee, Jupiter, Tequesta, Wellington, Royal Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens and West Palm Beach.

Domestic animals, dogs and cats, over four months of age are required to be vaccinated against rabies and wear a current rabies license tag. Shots can be obtained through a veterinarian or by calling Animal Care and Control at 561-233-1272.



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Jean M. Malecki, M.D., MPH, FACPM, Director