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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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32nd RABID ANIMAL DISCOVERED RABIES ALERT CONTINUES

West Palm Beach, FL—A gray fox that attacked a man golfing at the West Palm Beach Country Club, Saturday, was confirmed positive for rabies today making it the 32nd case of 2003. The man will be given the rabies shot series as a preventive measure. The rabies alert area includes all coastal regions with an eastern boundary of the Atlantic Ocean, and a western boundary along US 441 from Boca Raton to Lantana and west again to Flying Cow Road where the line goes north to Martin County. Animal Care and Control will distribute literature warning of the rabies hazard in the immediate area surrounding the golf course.

The alert is the result of 32 rabid animal confirmations, mostly raccoons, this year. This latest incident represents the largest number of animal rabies since 1953. A total of 14 persons have come in contact with these animals and have had to take a series of rabies shots as a precaution.

Animal Care and Control can be reached at 561-233-1200 if abnormal raccoon or fox behavior is observed. If a person is bitten they should report to the nearest hospital for treatment and call the Palm Beach County Health Department at 561-840-4500.

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.

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

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