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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **POTENTIALLY RABID FOX BITES 5 IN BOYNTON AREA**

BOYNTON BEACH, FL— A Florida fox presumed to be rabid has bitten a child and four adults in the area near Seacrest Boulevard, and SW 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The suspected fox was captured about 3:30 PM today by Animal Care and Control.

Persons in the area had spotted the animal on several occasions but it had eluded animal care and control officers and Boynton Police until the afternoon. One of the victims was a child playing in the yard of a daycare center in the vicinity when the fox jumped the fence and attacked. All victims will begin the six shots series against rabies immediately.

The captured animal will be tested at the Florida Department of Health Laboratory in Lantana. At this time persons in the area are being advised to avoid any wildlife and report any suspicious animal to Animal Care and Control at 561-233-1200.

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.

Persons that have been in contact with or bitten by a potentially rabid animal should report to their nearest medical provider, hospital or Palm Beach County Health Department at 561-840-4500.

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 available through a veterinarian or by calling Animal Care and Control at 561-233-1272.

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