

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## Habersham County Positive Rabies Case

December 30, 2022, Habersham Co., Georgia – Habersham County Animal Care and Control (HCACC) receives conformation of positive rabies case.

On Tuesday December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Habersham County Animal Care and Control was notified via phone of a stray kitten which had shown up at a residence on North Street in Clarkesville. It was report that the animal was “stumbling around” and when the resident had attempted to cover it with a blanket it “attacked the blanket”.

Habersham County Animal Control Officer Emily Harrison responded to the address and was able to locate and capture the animal. The kitten was transported to animal shelter where it was evaluated. Due to symptoms and behaviors observed the decision to euthanize was made. The animal was humanely euthanized and was sent to the health department for rabies testing. Results that confirmed a positive specimen were obtained Thursday afternoon.

Prior to obtaining the results it was discovered that a canine at the residence had consumed some food that had been placed out for the kitten. The canine had a current rabies vaccination and received a booster vaccine directly after results of a positive specimen had been obtained. The canine has been placed in a home observation for 45 days as a precaution.

This marks the 6<sup>TH</sup> Positive Case of rabies in Habersham this calendar year.

The previous cases in 2022 were as follows:

Col Hugh Rd in Clarkesville: Cat  
Thornbriar way in Mt. Airy: Skunk  
Hwy 17 in Clarkesville: Raccoon  
Ivy Hills in Mt. Airy: Skunk  
Family Ties Lane in Demorest: Skunk

“This is a reminder to check that your pet’s vaccinations are current. Dogs and cats who receive an initial rabies vaccination are not considered immunized until 28 days after the vaccine has been administered,

therefore it is strongly recommended that any animal newly vaccinated or those too young to receive the vaccine (less than three months) not be left outdoors unattended.” Says Madi Nix HCACC Director.

In addition to vaccinating your pets for rabies, there are several things residents can do to protect themselves and their pets:

- Avoid wildlife and animals you do not know.
- Do not allow your pet to roam; it can come in contact with rabid wildlife.
- Never feed or touch wild animals, especially bats, skunks, raccoons, or foxes.
- Seek medical attention immediately if bitten or exposed to saliva of a wild animal.
- Contact your veterinarian if your pet was exposed to a bat, raccoon, skunk, or other wild carnivore.
- Do not encourage the feeding of unmanaged cat colonies. If you do feed cats, ensure they are part of a TNR colony and have been vaccinated for rabies.

To learn more about HCACC, visit <https://www.habershamga.com/animal-control.cfm>.

To learn more about the rabies virus visit <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>

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ATTACHED:

Photo of kitten which tested positive for the rabies virus in Clarkesville

### **About HCACC**

The Habersham County Department of Animal Care & Control (HCACC) promotes and protects public safety and animal care through sheltering, pet placement, education, and animal law enforcement. Our mission is to enforce state laws and county ordinances pertaining to animal control and management; to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all animals in Habersham County; to promote compassion towards animals; to promote safe human-animal interactions; and to help educate the community in responsible pet ownership.

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### **About the Center for Disease Control**

CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same.

CDC increases the health security of our nation. As the nation’s health protection agency, CDC saves lives and protects people from health threats. To accomplish our mission, CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects our nation against expensive and dangerous health threats and responds when these arise.

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