



Rick Scott  
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP  
State Surgeon General

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## **ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT LIFTS RABIES ALERT**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, FL** – The St. Johns County Health Department has lifted a 60 day rabies alert that resulted from a report of aggressive behavior in a raccoon.

The alert, which covered the 200 block of North San Marco Avenue, in St. Augustine in an area bounded on the north by SR-16; the south to May Street; the east to the Intracoastal Waterway and the west to Ponce de Leon Blvd. (US-1) was issued on November 3, 2011.

Rabies is a disease of the nervous system, caused by exposure to infected animals' blood, body tissue or saliva, and is fatal to warm blooded animals and humans, if not treated.

While the rabies alert has been lifted, County Health Department Director and Health Officer, Dawn C. Allicock, M.D., M.P.H. reminds everyone "To remain wary of stray and wild animals, and take the necessary precautions to protect against and prevent the spread of rabies." The following precautions are recommended:

- Keep all pets current on rabies immunizations.
- Secure outside garbage in covered containers to avoid attracting wild animals.
- Do not leave pet foot outside; this may attract other unwanted animals.
- Do not feed, pet or handle wild animals. Never adopt wild animals, or try to nurse sick wild animals back to health.
- Be cautious around animals displaying unusual aggression or lack of fear around humans.

Anyone who is bitten or scratched by wild or domestic animals should seek medical attention promptly, and report the injury to the St. Johns County Health Department at 904-825-5055, Ext. 1090.

For questions about animals, or to report a suspicious or aggressive animal, please contact St. Johns County Animal Control at 904-209-0746.

For more information about rabies, please visit the Florida Department of Health website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/medicine/rabies/rabies-index.html>.

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**Our Mission:** *To protect and promote the health of all residents and visitors in St. Johns County.*

**Our Vision:** *A healthier future for the people of Florida.*

**Our Values:** *- Integrity; Commitment to Service; Respect; Excellence; Accountability; Teamwork; Empowerment –*



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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.