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FIRST CONFIRMED RABIES CASE IN 2017 RECORDED IN CATAWBA COUNTY

NEWTON, NC – Catawba County’s first confirmed case of rabies in 2017 has been recorded after an altercation between a dog and a raccoon at a residence in Catawba.

On March 23, 2017, Catawba County Animal Services received a call from a citizen whose dog killed a raccoon and sustained minor wounds. The dog is current on the rabies vaccination. The person reporting the case indicated that after the dog killed the raccoon, it came into close contact with another dog that is not current on the rabies vaccination.

The remains of the raccoon were sent to the North Carolina Public Health Laboratory in Raleigh. Catawba County Animal Services was notified on March 27 that the raccoon tested positive for rabies.

The exposed unvaccinated dog was brought to the Catawba County Animal Shelter and placed in quarantine. Animal Services officials have advised the dog owner about the options available in such cases.

Animal Services reminds pet owners that rabies is still present in the local wild animal population and is a threat to pets and humans, year-round. The best way to protect your pets from rabies is to have them properly vaccinated for rabies.

The Humane Society of Catawba County’s Newton Office also provides one-year rabies vaccinations year round, Monday through Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., at the shelter at 201 Government Services Drive, Newton, NC 28658, off Radio Station Road for a fee of \$10 per vaccination.

For more information on rabies or rabies vaccinations, call Catawba County Animal Services at 828-464-7686.

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