



# NOTICE

September 8, 2020

**TO:** Persons near Blossom Street and Poinsettia Street in Columbia, SC

**FROM:** Veronica Barringer, Area Director  
Midlands Environmental Affairs Columbia Office  
Bureau of Environmental Health Services

**SUBJECT: RABID RACCOON**

On September 4, 2020, a raccoon in your area **tested POSITIVE for the rabies virus**. The rabid raccoon is now deceased.

**Due to the possibility of the spread of rabies, DHEC urges you to use caution when dealing with wild or stray animals.** If you have reason to believe that you, your family members, or your pets have come into contact with this raccoon or another animal that potentially has rabies, **please call DHEC's Environmental Affairs Columbia office at (803) 896-0620 during normal business hours (M-F, 8:30-5:00).**

If your pet is found with wounds of unknown origin, please consider that your pet could have been exposed to rabies and contact the Columbia office. This is especially important as rabies has been confirmed in your area. Use caution when handling injured pets and avoid contact with wounds and saliva. Take any injured pet to a veterinarian so the wounds can be treated and rabies vaccination can be discussed.

**Please remember that rabies vaccinations for pets are required by the South Carolina Rabies Control Act.** If your pet does not have a current rabies vaccination, contact a veterinarian as soon as possible for an appointment. For more information on rabies in South Carolina, visit our website: [www.scdhec.gov/rabies](http://www.scdhec.gov/rabies).

We appreciate your cooperation in helping to reduce the spread of rabies in your community.