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RELEASE)

Herkimer County Public Health received word on Thursday, June 2, 2022, from Wadsworth Labs that a raccoon sent in to be tested for rabies on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 from the Town of Newport has tested positive for rabies.

The raccoon was found acting strangely in a barn and the property owner killed the raccoon.

The public can protect themselves or their family pets from rabies by practicing the following:

1. Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
2. Spay or neuter all animals to reduce the number of strays.
3. Do not feed strays or handle unknown animals, wild or domestic.

Remind children and adults not to play with unknown animals (wild or domestic). If a bat is found in a house, and there is a possibility it had contact with a person or an animal in the house, call Public Health and we will make arrangements to have the bat tested, if necessary.

Herkimer County Public Health would like to remind the public to please check your pet's rabies vaccination records to make sure that they are up to date. If they are not up to date, make an appointment with their vet as soon as possible to have them vaccinated against rabies. Herkimer County Public Health is hosting the following upcoming rabies clinics:

- June 2, 2022 Norway Community Center, 3114 Military Road, Norway from 5:30 to 7 pm
- June 15, 2022 Ilion/Frankfort VFW Pavilion, 4274 Acme Road, Frankfort from 5:30 to 7pm

Please call Public Health at 315-867-1176, if you have any questions or concerns, or visit our website at www.herkimercounty.org .