

August 25, 2021

TO: Persons on Baynard Park Road near Baynard Cove Villas within the Sea Pines

Community in Hilton Head Island, SC

FROM: Wendy Boswell, Area Director

Low Country Environmental Affairs Beaufort Office

Bureau of Environmental Health Services

SUBJECT: RABID RACCOON

On August 24, 2021, 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, someone you know, or your pets have come into contact with this raccoon or another animal that potentially has rabies, please call DHEC's Environmental Affairs Beaufort office at (843) 846-1030 during normal business hours (8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday) or after hours and on holidays at (888) 847-0902 (Select Option 2).

If your pet is found with wounds of unknown origin, please consider that your pet could have been exposed to rabies and contact the Beaufort 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 administration of a rabies vaccination can be discussed.

Please remember proof of rabies vaccinations for pets (cats, dogs, and ferrets) is 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 or to find a low-cost rabies clinic in South Carolina, visit our website: www.scdhec.gov/rabies.

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